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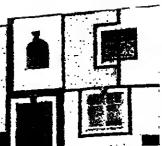
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SUITE DREAMS THE WORLD'S



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Saturday 30 May 1998 70p (IR 70p)

Baby heart surgeons were unsafe, says GMC

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

TWO senior heart surgeons carried nut operations on young children "without regard to their safety", the most important medical disciplinary inquiry of the decade bas found.

After a hearing lasting over seveo months, the longest in its history, the General Medical Couocil concluded that James Wisbcart, 60, and Janardan Dhasmana, 58, continued to it with colleagues to protect the perform complex beart surgery on babies at Bristol Royal Infirmary long after they should have stopped following warnings from colleagues about their high death rates.

A third doctor, John Rovlance, former chief executive of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, failed to respond to the warnings about the two doctors by preventing the operations from going ahead, the GMC found.

The original charges related to 53 infants operated on by the two surgeons between 1988 and 1995, of whom 29 died. All had congenital heart problems. The GMC contended that Mr Wisheart who had performed 15 of the operations, should have stopped after the 11th, when five children had died, because of his poor record and the warnings from colleagues. It said Mr Dhasmana, who performed 38 of the operations should have stopped after the first 19.

Yesterday, the council confuded that there was suffigent evidence to prove that they d continued to operate bepnd the point when they ould have stopped in three es for each surgeon. Five of e six babies died - two opered on by Mr Wisheart and ree by Mr Dhasmana.

Afterwards Malcolm Curw, spokesman for the Bristol reuts Support Group, said at ast 91 children had died or en brain-damaged following records and 50 families were ring legal action. "We in the truth about these his to come out," he said. The three doctors, who all y serious professional misduct, left the hearing with-

Mr Wisheart and his wife e escorted from the huldby police, as reporters and ographers ran after them. Rickard, whose 11old daughter Samantha

died after a heart operation per- formance. The case has exformed by Mr Wisheart, walked alongside his taxi banging on the

Mrs Rickard, whose husband committed suicide two years after their daughter's death, said: "There is still a lot more to be investigated in this case. This is just the tip of the

The case is the first to highlight doctors' duty to monitor their performance and compare safety of patients. Having de-

High death rates: Surgeons

livered its "finding of fact" in the

case, the seven-member pro-

fessional conduct committee

of the council, including five

doctors and two lay people, will

oext consider whether the

charges proved against the

three doctors amount to serious

professional misconduct and

whether they should be struck

off the medical register. Mr Wis-

heart and Dr Roylance, are re-

tired. Removal from the register

fraternity and could lead to

new regulations governing per-

proceedings calling them a

concluded.

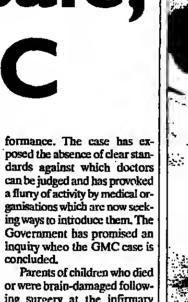
should have known it was unsafe.

formed the surgery, did so without considering referring Joshua to another hospital and without "sufficient regard" to his safety. Mr Wisheart, who was medical director of the hospital, and Dr Roylance, as chief executive, did not act on repeated warnings they received from colleagues and prevent Mr Dhasmana operating. Joshua

The parents are demanding public inquiry but the health department said no decisioo on the type of inquiry had yet been taken, After the final GMCverdict, the doctors are expected to appeal to the Privy Council and officials are concerned that a

does not affect pension rights. The final verdict, which is not en evidence from 67 witnesses expected before mid-June, is and cost £2.2m. likely to trigger an epidemic of soul-searching by the surgical

Why did no one stop these doctors? pages 4, 5



Parents of children who died or were brain-damaged following surgery at the infirmary crowded into the public gallery of the GMC's headquarters to hear Sir Donald Irvine, the president, read out the committee's findings. The high emotion geoerated by the case was reflected by the father of lan Stewart, who was brain-damaged but excluded from the case, who briefly interrupted the

'sham" and a "charade". Much of the argument during the case focused on the final operation on Joshua Loveday, aged 18 months, carried out oo 12 January 1995. All three doctors were found to have allowed it to go ahead when they

Mr Dhasmana, wbo perdied on the day of his operation.

public inquiry might have to be

unreasonably delayed. The parents are due to meet Sir Cecil Clothier, former NHS ombudsman and chairman of the inquiry into the Nottingham nurse Beverley Allitt who was convicted of murdering children oo her hospital ward. He is expected to try to persuade them that an internal investigation modelled oo the Allitt inquiry could meet their concerns.

The GMC hearing has tak-



Pakistan proposes Asia peace plan

By Peter Popham in New Delhi

TWENTY-FOUR bours after exploding five nuclear bombs, Pakistan yesterday proposed that all countries of the world join to ensure peace in south Asia. As the United Nations Security Council reached agreement on a statement deploring Islamabad's nuclear tests and urging India and Pakistao not

to conduct any more, Foreign Ministry secretary Shamshad Ahmad was briefing ambassadors and beads of foreign missioos in terms clearly designed to couoter the pariah status that both Pakistan and India are in

danger of achieving. Pakistan had crossed the day, Mr Ahmad said, with a high sense of responsibility to restore

a strategic balance after India's five nuclear tests earlier this month. "Our nuclear weapons capability is solely meant for national self-defence. It will never be used for offensive purposes." he insisted.

The Pakistani proposal was for the international community nuclear threshold on Thurs- to address the implications of the nuclearisation of the region. by evolving "effective, oon-

discriminatory and verifiable measures to promote peace, stahility and enhanced confidence. io the Indiao Ocean aod adjaccot regions".

The statements were in marked contrast to others made by the couotry's leaders. The Foreign Minister, Gohur Ayub Khan, declared that Pakistan was now a "ouclear weapons state," and vowed to repel any

attack from India with a vengeance".

Britain vesterday withdrew her High Commissioner in Islamabad, Sir David Dain, Asimilar actioo was takeo wheo India cooducted ouclear tests. The United States has imposed sanctions on both India and Pakistan that jeopardise hillions of dollars in loans.

Pakistan's choice, page 16

Every school to opt out of local council control

ALL schools will be giveo cootrol over their finances, effectively allowing them to opt out of local authority control, the Government announced yesterday. Stephen Byers, the Schools

Standards Minister, said every head teacher would have control of a bank account and complete power over their school's day to day budget. The change will transfer an estimated £600m per year out of the cootrol of elected councils into the hands of heads. Local authorities will face severe limits oo their powers over schools and ministers will be able to cap the amount of money they spend on ad-

ministering education. The move will revolutionise the way schools are run, in ef-Leading article, page 22 fect offering all schools the

freedoms of grant-maintained status championed by the last Conservative government.

Mr Byers told the National Association of Head Teachers Conference, in Eastbourne: "This is schools' mooey and schools should have the benefit of that money and they should have cootrol of how that money

In the past, local authorities have come under fire for holding back from schools substantial proportions of their educatioo budgets. Instead of having to vote to opt out of council control, all schools will he given the automatic right to manage almost every aspect of their affairs.

A consultatioo documeot proposes giving head teachers powers to ruo school catering, repairs, payrolls and finances as well as buying in educational ad-

vice from outside experts. Local authorities will retain powers to allocate school places, control school expansion, run special needs educatioo and employ local advisers to ensure

government targets are met. Mr Byers said head teachers would be able to seek out the best deals on the open market, potentially releasing millions of pounds to spend in the classroom. The new arrangements will be brought in oext year.

The School Standards And Framework Bill will create three new types of school - foundation, community and voluntary - to replace the current distinction between county, grantmaintained and church schools.

David Hart, NAHT general secretary, welcomed the anoouocement, but warned of possible redundancies if schools chose to drop council services

In brief

Police suspended

Forty-two police officers have heen suspended on full pay for the past two years while police penses fraud. Almost £5m of taxpayers' money has beeo spent investigating the allega-



some people that tortured me, but there were some people who were a bandage to my wounds. (Vedran, displaced person.) ?? AFTER THE FIGHTING IS OVER, Larry Hollingworth, former Chief of Operations for the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, returns to Bosnia He visits the men, women and children who became his friends and talks to them about their

**There were

Tuesday mornings from 2 June, (1.02 - 11.30, BBC RADIO 4

past singedics and fature hopes.

92-95 FM & 198 LW YOU'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Top marks for Severn Bridge

By Kate Watson-Smyth

The steel and concrete Severn Bridge (left) was yesterday ranked alongside such historic edifices as St. Paul's Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament wheo it was named as a Grade

1 listed building. Built between 1961 and 1966 to improve links between England and Wales, the Severn Bridge was the first in the world

to have an aerodynamically vation of post-war hridge buildshaped deck, and was hailed as

a major engineering advance. The deck was designed ultraslim in sections to reduce the impact of the high winds that regularly hatter the estuary.

Tony Banks, the Heritage Minister, said the mile-long bridge is one of ten post-war bridges to be awarded special status. "These bridges stand as evidence of the technical inno-

ing in England," he said.

James Clune, commercial manager of Severn River Crossing which manages the hridge. said it was unique both from an aesthetic point of view and in terms of its design.

"Of course, you cannot compare the bridge with the Palace of Westminster io the same terms, but as bridges go it is a

very pleasing structure," he said.

/EATHER, P2 ● CROSSWORDS, TIME OFF P14 & P28 ● TODAY'S TELEVISION, THE EVE ● FULL CONTENTS, P2

Deadly siblings Why India and Pakistan hate each other

■ Talking sex Trouble for the world's smuttiest radio phone-in show

■ Casino art The unlikely connoisseurs of Las Vegas

Phat controllers The hip hop breakdance renaissance

IN MONDAY'S INDEPENDENT

llan Hargreaves My life with David Montgomery Media+

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Foreign Features 19,20 Arts Leader & letters Comment **Obituaries** Shares Business Time Off 14,26 TV & radio



cycled paper made u of the raw material UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

ON SUNDAY Warders paid while earning in new jobs

By lan Burrell Home Affairs Correspondent

MILLIONS of pounds of taxpayers' money has been spent paying 42 suspended prison officers who have also been allowed to take second jobs while police investigate allegations of expenses fraud.

The officers have been suspended on full pay for nearly two years while almost £5m of public money has been spent during an investigation into the allegations, which involve a total of about £10,000. No one has yet been charged.

They have been allowed to take additional paid jobs including training airport staff in baggage X-rays, selling corporate hospitality and working as closed-circuit selevision operators for private security com-

The officers, under investigation by West Yorkshire Powere high-flyers handpicked to attend prison colleges in Wakefield, Preston and Doncaster for training in new security procedures.

They are accused of making expenses claims for hotel stays and travel that never took place involving sums ranging from £6 to several hundred pounds.

The investigation stemmed from the arrest of Keith Mather, a senior prison officer jailed for 16 months in March after admitting deception charges involving a total of £17,000.

Mather made claims to detectives that expenses fraud was widespread, triggering the current investigation. The suspended officers

deny wrongdoing and claim they are being victimised after the discovery of widespread corruption within the service.

The Independent has learned that one officer who accepted im, has since been promoted to deputy governor. Another officer has been returned to post despite admitting to claiming lodging allowance while on holiday.

Last night one of those suspended since November 1996 said: "We are being victimised

to set an example while others have been protected. It's deicable and reprehensible."

Four of the suspended officers have recently retired and four have resigned, leaving 34 still suspended.

· Among those arrested was a senior prison officer based at the Prison Service College in Wakefield, who admitted claiming overnight accommodation while staying with a

He was given a police caution and co-operated with detectives in their investigation into other claims. Prison chiefs felt that the matter should be dealt with on an "informal basis" and asked him to repay £34

He has since been promoted to deputy governor.

The West Yorkshire police

inquiry has inspired separate fraud investigations at jails in the Midlands and the South-

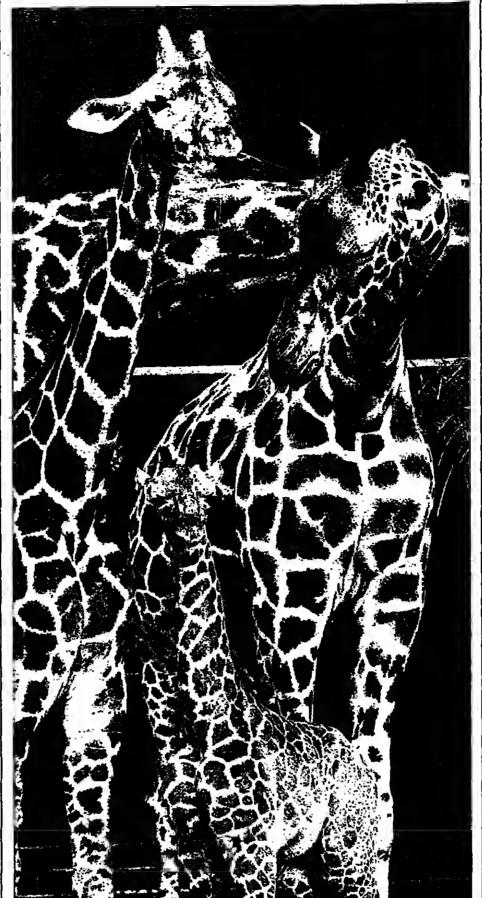
Four officers have been sacked at High Down and Downview prisons in Surrey, which now involves allegations against nearly 30 mem-hers of staff. Physical education instructor Julian Henton, one of the sacked officers, later received £10,245 from the government for unfair dismissal.

He was given a police caution for claiming an extra £39.70 for bogus accommodation expenses.

Mr Henton, 36, an Army Falklands veteran with eight years' experience in the prison service, said: "We did something wrong but we didn't do. it callously. Now I have lost everything and I'm not sure if anyone will ever employ me

"The Prison Service said" there was "no evidence" that fraud was widespread througha police caution for a false out the service. A spokesman said that all allegations of fraudulent behaviour on the part of staff were "investigat ed thoroughly".

He said: "No member of staff will be accorded special treatment on account of their rank, position or any other



Bentley, the 10-day-old giraffe born at Chester Zoo, Cheshire, making his first appearance in public yesterday

Galloway jets out on Saudi mission of truth

By Steve Boggan

THE LEFT-WING Labour MP George Galloway, has been flown to Saudi Arahia to interview the police who allegedly beat and threatened two British nurses into confessing to killing a colleague.

While all attempts to visit the country by the British media failed during Yvonne Gilford and Deborah Parry's incarceration, Mr Galloway has been given a visa to work for the Mail on Sunday.

The maverick MP earned the approval of the Saudis on the women's release when he criticised newspapers who bought their stories and demanded that they be struck off their professional register, the UK Central Council for Nurses.

They have not been pardoned - they have been convicted of murder," he said. The same newspapers who hounded Mary Bell and criticised the payment to her are paying out money to two convicted murderers. In turn, the Daily Mail,

which made a failed £175,000 bid for Lucille McLauchlan's story, followed up with a piece headlined: "Two British Nurses, Lesbianism and Murder in the Desert - and the Truth".

A parliamentary source told The Independent yesterday: Genrge has been very interested in the case and has been given a visa to go in and write a piece for the Mail on Sunday. The idea is that he will examine the cyldence and interview the police who are supposed to have forced confessions out of the nurses."

Peter Watson, Ms McLauchlan's lawyer, and Rodger Pannone, Ms Parry's, were amazed when told of the visit. "They are affording George Galloway a privilege that neither the accused nor the defence team

son. "For 18 months we asked for access to the evidence against both girls but we were never allowed it. I don't understand why it should be made available to him when it was not made available to us."

Mr Pannone said: "It seems amazing that a system of law cannot produce the evidence for us which we asked for repeatedly over 18 months, cannot produce it at the women's trial, and yet can produce it 18 months later for an MP known to have sympathies to the Arah cause. I am not impressed by

that whatsoever." Mr Galloway is understood to have flown to Saudi Arabia



George Galloway: Given visa to enter Saudi Arabia

on Wednesday aboard a flight paid for by the newspaper. He was travelling to Jeddah yesterday. He has expressed concern over the xenophobia demonstrated in certain parts of the media over the automatic assumption that Saudi justice is inferior to its British counterpart,

The MP for Glasgow Kelvin who once had the PLO flag flown from Dundee council house - is a friend of the Arab world. In April, while opposing sanctions against Iraq, he was accused by some MPs of staging a stunt when he flew into Britain from Iraq with a four-year-old Iraqi girl leukaemia victim.

Boy, 12, guilty of raping 5-year-old

Chime Correspondent

A BOY of 12 yesterday became one of the youngest people ever to be convicted of rape in

British criminal history. The boy held his head in his hands and sobbed as he was convicted of raping a five-year-

old girl in a cemetery in Leeds. A second 12-year-old boy. the girl's uncle, has also admitted indecently assaulting his niece during the attack.

Both boys, now aged 13, will be placed on the Sexual Offenders Register and will have to report their movements to the police. They were both released on hall yesterday and will be sentenced after reports have been prepared.

can be convicted of rape was lowered in 1993 from 14 to 10. The Sex Offences Act 1993 abolished the presumption that boys aged 10 to 13 were not considered capable of committing rape. The change in the law followed an outcry over a number

of sexual assaults by children. In what may be the only other case involving such a young offender, a Somali refugee was given five years' detention in January last year after being found guilty of raping a tourist

in London when he was 12. In the latest trial, the jury at Leeds Crown Court heard that the girl was raped as she played with the two boys next to Harehills cemetery in Leeds on a Sunday afternoon last September.

The minimum age a person The court heard that when was kicking my legs at him. But Myerson QC said: "It was a very the girl, who gave evidence via a video link, returned home, she told her grandmother that the boy got on top of her and told her he was going to show her what daddies do to mum-Nicholas Campbell, for the prosecution, said the 12-year-old

raped the girl the first time and then threatened her uncle that he would hurn his clothes on a fire they had started if he did not have sex with the girl as well. After the uncle had sex with

her, the first boy apped her a second time.

In a videotaped interview with police, the gift described how she tried to light the 12year-old off. "I was saying, 'Get off me, get off me', and I

he wouldn't get off," she said. She said that the 12-year-old hurt her and laughed as he raped her, and she thought they were going to kill her. . After her grandmother

called police, the girl was taken to hospital and examined by a doctor, who found evidence that she had been sexually as-The girl's uncle, who had

been living with the girl and who had given evidence for the prosecution, admitted he got on top of the girl when he was threatened but did not have full sex. Neither of the boys can be

named for legal reasons. After the verdict, during which the boy's mother comforted her son. Judge Arthur

difficult and somewhat emotional case. It's a verdict 1 can well understand." Last October a 10-year-old

boy was charged at Nottingham Crown Court with the rape of a 12-year-old boy, but he was convicted of indecent assault. In February this year, a 12-

year-old in Sunderland became the youngest person to be placed on the Sex Offenders Register. He admitted indecently assaulting two children aged six and seven.

Two boys aged 10 were to be charged with rape, but were cleared on the orders of an Old Bailey judge in February.

In 1996 there were two conviction of rape carried out by boys aged between 10 and 14.

WEATHER



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If will be mostly cloudy across Scotland with showers in the south this morning slowly edging northwards keland and northern parts of England and Wales will have suriny spells, but these will be a lot of cloud towards the North Sea coast. Southern England will short dry with warm curciture, but hoavy thundary rain. will move into the couldt-west and these is a risk of showers elsewhere in the could by evening

Outlook for the next few days Unsettled across the country with showers sugading north terrorrow and the best of the sunstaine an courth east England and East Anglia. Many places will become warm, but the far north-east will stay cool and cloudy. There will be further cloud and chowers across Scotland and Northern beland on Monday and fuesday. The rest of the UK will have a notione had showers will geturn later, possibly with some thunder,

British Isles weather C.cloudy, Cl. clear, F.lair, Fg.log, Hz.haze M.mist, R.rain, S.zomy, St.sleet, Sh.showers, Sr.snow, Th.thunder C 13 55 Coursey S 17 63 lustruces

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Sorry Damien, however hard you try, you've become passé

By David Lister Arts News Editor

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PICKLED sheep and half-built installations are out. The new geoeratioo of young British artists believe they have had their time. Today's young Turks prefer to use paint, photography aod sculpture rather than video and dead animals.

They have turned their backs (for oow at least) oo the artistic styles of such thirtysomething elders as Damieo Hirst, Rachel

The new generation of young British artists are largely in their early tweoties. They term themselves the "new neurotic realists" and their subject matter is more likely to be a grittily naturalistic tableau of a woman having her home taken away than Tracey Emin's tent with lovers' oames embroidered on it.

Now 34 of these artists are about to be launched oo to the sceoe by the collector and gallery owner Charles Saatchi, the key figure behind last year's "Sensatioo" exhibitioo which featured Hirst and his cohorts.

But while Seosatioo was drawing crowds at the Royal Academy, Mr Saatchi was scouring small alternative artist-run warehouse and studio shows to find the next geoeration of treodsetters. He will be exhibiting their work oext January. A catalogue, The New Neurotic Realism, featuring their art is published by the Saatchi Gallery next Monday. The works in the book show the concerns of the new ocurotic realists.

A mounted photographic print by Tom Hunter is eotitled Woman Reading Possession Order. The woman bathed io light



in the sparse flat with her baby in a work full of pathos has a clear reference to Vermeer's painting of a pregnant lady reading a letter saying her husband is not coming home.

Nicky Hoberman's oil paintings of children hint at their sexuality. Martin Malooey's colourful figurative works on home, office and party scenes are described expansively in the catalogue as "late Picasso blends with Hockney ... he transcribes Poussin through rave culture".

The catalogue adds about young painters Karl Maughan.



Victoria Chalmers and Rosie Soell: "Celebrating painterly skill, they used domesticity and a familiar English type of documentary drama. They tread a realist path which does not reflect transatlantic modishness. They claim a peculiar heritage, revisiting the skill of the deeply unfashionable Stanley Spencer.

"Maughan's perfect flower borders threateo io their photographic clarity. Soell's landscape paintings trace a path of American Gothic straight to Andrew Wyeth. Chalmers



disturbance. By picking up oo the underlying, kitcheo sink nostalgia of the Britcool pheoomena this group of painters suddeoly found their documentary style a strength."

Paul Smith, 29, a former soldier, creates photographs using himself to play every role, of squaddies at work and again in Make My Night on Saturday nights out which rapidly degeoerate into violence. He said: "Hopefully, we are bringing a fresh approach to things. I have taken friends to art galleries and ing to look for a more grass-roots understanding of the work."

Roger Hioras, 23, who has made a sculpture of Notre Dame out of card construction with cobalt and copper chemical mounted on glass, added: "We don't despise Hirst and the Sensatioo crowd. They opened things up. But we don't feel such pressure to perform. We're all more secure.

Jenny Blyth, curator at the Saatchi Gallery, said: "Damien and his peers are essentially conceptual artists. These oew peo- this group. Cynicism is finally paints a cool portrait of nervous they find it intimidating. I am try- ple are concerned with realism. passé, and the art star a bore."



Damien Hirst (top) at the launch yesterday of his work Vindaloo, which contrasts with the work of the 'neurotic realists'. Below (from left): Tom **Hunter's Woman Reading** Possession Order, Angel by Ron Mueck, and Mueck at Main photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

The work produced ... will maintain an international focus on British contemporary art."

The art critic Dick Price, who wrote the foreword to the catalogue, adds: "A fresh trend isemerging, swimming against the currects of the past few years. The art which is oow emerging into view shakes off the ironical one-liner stance, the cynical indifference, the cult of artist as superstar ... the aggression which has been so fashinnable, are no longer ceotral to

This week

"In search of a brave new world, they found a great new recipe for chicken."

CAJUN COUNTRY. There's more to Cajun history than Shrimp Gumbo and accordians. Pete McCarthy investigates one of the more shameful episodes in Britain's history and how modern day Acadians and Capins are still coming to terms with it. Sunday afternoons from 31 May, 12.04 -- 12.30.

> **Seats available in the front row in your front room.**

FRONT ROW. Catch out comprehensive new arts programme and stay sharper than a shark in formaldehyde. Discussion, features, reviews and interviews, fronted by Mark Lawson and Francine Stock. Weekday evenings, 7.15 - 7.45.

"See the world through the eyes of two colour blind policemen."

AN INSPECTOR CALLS, A two-part series investigating racism and truancy. In this week's programme, PCs Couch and Armstrong of Watford's Racial Incident Unit. deal with racism and racists face-to-face. Monday evenings from 1 June, 8.02 - 8.30.

"There were some people that tortured me, but there were some people who were a bandage to my wounds." (Vedran, displaced person.)

AFTER THE FIGHTING IS OVER. Larry Hollingworth, former Chief of Operations for the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, returns to Bosnia. He visits the men, women and children who became his friends and talks to them about their past tragedies and future hopes. Tuesday mornings from 2 june, 11.02 - 11.30.

What is the next number in the following series? 4, 2, 3, 4, 6, 2, 3, 9, ...*

PUZZLE PANEL Listen in as Chris Maslanka and his panel of mathematicians, these players and other people with large foreheads set, analyse and solve puzzles. Thursday afternoons from 4 June. 1.30 - 2.00. Repeated Sunday evenings, 11.02.

"If Hugh Laurie is the Prime Minister and Stephen Fry wants to be the next Director General of the BBC, who is murdering London's dentists?"

in the Chair. Michael Williams, Stephon Fry and Hugh Laurie head an all-star cast in this new political comedy from the award-winning creator of 'In the Red': Friday evenings from 5 June, 6,30 - 7.00. Repeated Saturday lunchtimes, 12,30.

"You are what you eat, so get to know yourself better."

THE FOOD PROGRAMME. Derek Cooper tells you all you'll ever need to know about what you eat. A celebration of food – how it's grown. where it comes from and how to cook it. Saturday mornings, 11.02 - 11.30. Repeated on Monday afternoons, 4.02.

BBC RADIO 4 92-95FM & 198LW YOU'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY

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Do big ears turn suits into artists?

TT'S 7.45am, and the relentless tide of suits washes north across Londoo Bridge towards the City. Grey suits, navy suits, black suits: eyes fixed purposefully ahead as they stride the familiar path to work.

Breezy young women with clipboards try to buttoo-hole them with offers of life assurance, timeshares and other property investment opportunities, but the suits slip past with seasoned defensiveoess.

On the bridge, more young women wave more paper; but here, miraculously, a handful of bridge-goers stop and receive the out-stretched offering. Putting down their hriefcases, they smooth down their hair, and with all due seriousness place the paperware on their heads. It's purple, pink and yellow, and not very dignified -

a pair of jaunty ears with the oge slogan, "Art iz Us."

The ears have been provided by Anthony Samuelson, a 68year-old eccentric who has been staking out the bridge every weekday morning since the end of March to pave the way for today's art happening, a comment oo the Turner Prize.

In the countdown to the big event, he has spent the weeks bombarding "bridgers" with a succession of explanatory texts. culminating on Wednesday with a dress-rehearsal, in which he distributed printed headbands for home practice. "I was wearing my 'accustomiser' at home last night," explains Mark, a stockbroker freshly delivered off to the idea so you dido't feel a complete prat today." Has it worked? Yes. Today he is wearing his ears with pride, though somewhat disappointed at "the



typically 000-committal British attitude" of many of his peers rushing hare-headedly past.

"You can get killed if you the 8.05. "It was to get you used stop to tie your shoelace here," warns Joan from NatWest whose colleague, Peter, has paused to take her eared-up

Why is she participating?

to work. I cycle half the week because I can't bear being oo the train treated like cattle or a hunch of refugees," she explains. "When I first got a leaflet I thought it was designed to ridicule us. I'm sensitive to being treated like a number not a person. I thought it might be donkey ears he wanted us to wear. I thought it might he just another emblem of conformity. He gradually

Initially carrying the whiff of preteotious art hoax, Samuelson's "happening" has touched the hearts of 200 ear-wearing people: equal oumbers of meo and women, any age group,

convinced me.

many in couples. "You did it!" a grey-suit slaps Samoelsoo warmly on the back.

"Anything to drop the notioo young harrister in the early with the Timer, you see, is a tecthat we're all drooes going off Fifties made this self-same trip to work. Participation has far exceeded his expectation. "I'm cutting my teeth oo the easy stuff." he says. "Persuading the Apprentice Boys' march in Derry may be harder." Everyooe present on the

hridge betweeo 7.45 and 9.15am, ear-wearing or not, has been declared an artist by Samuelson. To underline the fact, he has printed up Turner Prize comination forms for bridgers" to fill out, entitling them all to a share in the possible £20,000 winnings.

His stance is oot another conceptual stab in the "Is it art?" debate, nor is it a swipe at the art world's ruling elite. "The Turner Prize is an outstanding prize for contemporary art and the people who win it "Thank you! Thank you!" are at the tops of their careers," beams Samuelson, who as a Samuelson says. His argument

ny point in the rules - to qualify you have to be under 50. Few of the bridgers admit any interest in art or the Turn-

er Prize. They are, however, up for a giggle and a chance to support the man who has dedicated so much time to wooing their support. The event is entirely self-fuoded by Samuelson, and his stunt has hurt no one except the exasperated film crew who flew over from Los Angeles this morning to catch pictures of traditionally miserable City gents trudging to work.

In fact, there's something in it for everyooe. "Are these hats?" asks a woman in her fifties. "I've refused the damn leaflets for weeks, and I was just about to walk past," she says. "But I'm going to a party in France tomorrow and you've got to wear a hat. Until now I

Why did no one stop these doctors

Surgeons failed to heed warnings from colleagues

By Jeremy Laurance

THEY WERE dedicated and methodical heart surgeons applying their skills for the benefit of their patients. The tragedy was that their results were disastrous and they failed to beed warnings from colleagues.

That was the essence of the General Medical Council's case against James Wisheart, 60, and Janardan Dhasmana, 58. The doctors were not abusing their position, as are most who appear before the council's professional conduct committee.

They were hardworking. conscientious individuals doing their best - but their best was not good enough. Out of 53 babies operated on by the two doctors between 1988 and 1995, 29 died and four suffered hrain damage. Many of the babies had Down's syndrome, which carries a high risk of heart defects. The Bristol Heart Children

Group, representing the parents, says it has identified 78 children who died and 13 who were brain damaged following operations by the two surgeons over a 10-year period from 1985. They claim 1,000 children may have been put at risk in what they call the Bristol cardiac disaster".

Why were their results so poor? Why did they not heed the warnings from colleagues? Why, most importantly, did no one stop them when it became clear so many hahies were dying? As Sandy Rundle - mother of Matthew, who died, aged 10 months, in April 1994 said: "Someone must have the power to stop a surgeon, 1 find it hard to believe no one did."

Consultant anaesthetist Dr Stephen Bolsin, who first drew attention to the high death rate, noticed as soon as he ar-

rived at the infirmary in 1988 that major heart operations on children were lasting up to three times longer than similar operations he had attended at the Royal Brompton in London. Dr Bolsin alerted Dr John

Roylance, chief executive of the infirmary, to his concerns. Over the next six years these concerns were reiterated by other anaesthetists in the department, by the Royal College of Surgeons, by the professor of adult cardiac surgery at Bristol, Gianni Angelini, and eventually by the Department of Health itself. Yet the operations continued and babies continued to die.

Open-heart surgery requires a high level of skill, and in babies, especially, speed is of the essence. Both Mr Wisheart and Mr Dhasmana were in their fifties when they carried out the fateful operations and some say such surgery, with its enormous mental and physical demands, is a young man's game (although there are notable exceptions such as the heart transplant pioneer Sir Magdi Yacoub who is still operating at 60-plus). One reason why they did not

stop operating was because they believed they would get better. Mr Wisheart explained to the inquiry that there is a "learning curve" when a surgeon takes up a new procedure and it was common knowledge that other centres had experienced high fatality rates in the early stages.

A central issue to emerge from the case is that there were no benchmarks by which surgeons could judge whether their performance was acceptable and no guidance on training in new procedures.

Between 1990 and 1993, Mr Wisheart carried out 11 hole-inthe-heart operations on babies and five died - a mortality rate



James Wisheart

Witnesses who gave evidence to the GMC attes Mr Wisheart's kindness, decency and honesty. He was described as dedicated by colleagues, open and sympathetic by patients. But it became clear during the hearing that he was not a man given to self examin tion and self-criticism - like many of his calling. ... Mr Wisheart, who qualified in Belfast in 1962, air

racic surgeon in 1975. He became chairman of the Hospital Medical Committee, and medical director of the United Bristol

at the Bristol Filiped Infirmary as consultant cardiotho

Healthcare NHS Trust in 1992.



Janardan: Dhasmana in contrastionse assurance of his senior colleague, l Diagrams was so objective about his poor perfornce of his senior colleague, Mr mance at the complex switch operations that he went bilice to Blimingham, an acknowledged centre of excel-

ince to bininguant, an acknowledged centre of excel-ions, to be to be the control of the contro



Dr John Roylance

Most NHS managers are not doctors and therefore fall outside the remit of the GMC. It was Or Roylance's misfortune that he happened to be medically qualified and therefore found himself charged with his colleagues.

Dr Roylance, a consultant radiologist who qualified in Bristol in 1954, was an NHS manager for the last 10 years of his professional life until he retired in October 1995. He was a supporter of the Tory NHS reforms and became the first chief executive of the United Brision Healthcare NHS Trust in April 1991, He inherited problems and colleagues say he worked hard to pull it-

of 45 per cent. Over the next 18 part of the GMC inquiry, remonths, he carried out a further four operations on young heart's mortality rate was worse babies and they all died, raising his mortality rate to 60 per cent. At that point he stopped carrying out those operations.

A later review of 2,500 adult heart operations, which are not erated on by the other surgeons

vealed that here, too, Mr Wisthan that of his colleagues. Published in March 1997, it disclosed that four times as many of his coronary bypass patients died as did those who were op-

- 12.2 per cent compared with 2.6 per cent. Mr Wisheart, who had vol-

untarily stopped operating the previous December, announced his retirement from the NHS 24 hours before the review was published. One of the many disturbing

features of the case is that despite his apparently poor skills, Mr Wisheart rose to become one of the most distinguished made medical director of the United Bristol Hospital Trust which had taken over the running of the infirmary from 1991 and, in 1995, he was given an A merit award, worth about £40,000 a year on top of his NHS salary for worldwide services to cardiac surgery. Mcrit awards are made on the recommendation of other senior consultants. What this reveals about the medical establishthe government inquiry that is to follow the GMC case.

Mr Dhasmana was a more able surgeon than Mr Wisheart, despite being his junior. His mortality rate for hole-inthe-heart operations was to per cent, better than the natinnal average and far better his skills were tested to their limit and beyond when, encouraged by Mr Wisheart, he began trying a new kind of heart surgery involving switching the main arteries in habies who are born with them reversed. Of the 13 new-born babies on whom he operated, nine died and one was left with severe brain damage. Nationally, the average sur-

vival rate was nine out of ten. In their defence, the two surgeons argued that patients did not come with single problems, but with a mix of complications that made comparisons difficult. As the senior surgeon, Mr Wisheart would have been expected to take the riskiest cases. It was impossible to draw mean-

were only a part of the case against them. In addition to ignoring warnings from col-leagues Mr Wisheart was also found to have misled the parents of his patients by quoting national survival rates instead of his own personal survival rate

which was considerably worse. Matthew Rundle's mother was told by Mr Wisheart that there was a 90 per cent chance surgeons in Bristol. He was ingful statistical conclusions that his hole-in-the-heart opfrom those included in the inof the 13 previous children Mr Dr John Roylance, chief ex- Wisheart had operated on, sev-

ecutive of the trust, took this ar- en had died - giving him a suc-They were hardworking, conscientious individuals doing their best - but

ment will be a key question for gument a stage further. He cess rate of less than 50 per cent. accepted that Bristol's record was not as good as it should have been. That was why he pressed for a specialist paediatric cardiac surgeon, appointed in May 1995, and for resources to be concentrated in the children's hospital rather than the infirmary - demonthan Mr Wisheart's. However, strating that he had taken steps to improve it. He pointed out that if there is a range of performance, someone has to be at the bottom. The question was when that became unacceptable. Once again the case exposed the absence of

their best was not good enough

Did these claims amount to lies? Quoting success rates in the early stages of a new pro-

cedure is tricky for surgeons. If the first natient dies, do you tell the next that the fatality rate is 100 per cent? Faced with worried parents do you worry them more by quoting cold figures or try to reassure them? Mr Wisheart claimed that the number of patients involved was too small for talk about his personal success rate to be meaningful.

Dr Roylance, charged with failing to heed the warnings about the performance of the two surgeons, claimed that he

The surgeons' poor results had to rely on the clinical advice he was receiving - and Mr Wisheart was the medical director of the trust whose role included deputising for the chief executive. Although Dr Rovlance happened to be a doctor, as hospital manager it was not his business to meddle in clinical matters.

One of the greatest puzzles of the case is the role of the other specialists at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Despite the eration would be a success. But apparently poor record of the two surgeons, they continued to be sent patients for surgery. Why did the cardiologists continue to refer?

Success depends on the whole clinical team, not only on the surgeon who takes lead responsibility. It emerged during the case that, for some of the children, there was inadequate diagnostic information before the operations and, for others, poor post-operative care. Other consultants at the hospital who have not featured in the inquiry received warning letters from the GMC. A picture emerged of an institution in trouble.

Rudolf Klein, professor of social policy at Bath University. who has made a close study of the case, said: "This wasn't just about two incompetent doctors. There were problems with the whole set-up. The impression that emerges is of an enclosed culture run by people who had known and worked with each other for 20 years. I think what we are looking at is the

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Tragic case that proves need for

THE verdict of the General Medical Council in the case of the Bristol three is bound leave a sense of perplexity. Here was a case that started on a high tide of emotion involving as it did the apparently unnecessary death of small bahies; deaths which as the evidence given during the trial confirmed, might have been prevented if they had been operated on by other surgeons working at a hospital with a better record. But it has ended in a complex judgement, many of the charges brought against doctors concerned have been dismissed. Tragedy has

ended in confusion. Inevitably, therefore, one reaction may be to see the case of the Bristol three as no example of the medical prothat would be a mistake. The fact that the GMC bought the case in the first place was in it-

The Bristol three case shows that the GMC cannot put institutions on trial, writes Rudolf Klein, Professor of Social Policy at the University of Bath

that its members are responsible not only for ensuring that they are competent to carry out the work to do hut also for bringing failures of their colleagues to light. If the verdict has been less

than clear cut, it is not because of a medical conspiracy. It is because ensuring that doctors are competent is a difficult task. The importance of the Bristol case therefore lies as much in the pointers it provides fession protecting its own. But for future policy verdict actually reached.

First, the case of the Bristul three is a reminder that the self a powerful signal tu the GMC is not designed to deal

medical profession as whole with institutional failure, as distinct from the failure of individual doctors. Many of the problems at Bristol seem to have been institutional in charactor, contributing to the deaths of the babies in question. The culture of the Bristol Royal Infirmary apperas to have been somewhat inbred. There was an unwillingness to address openly the disquiet about outcomes. particularly when it was expressed by newly appointed consultants. Criticism was dis-

counted; signals were ignored. But the GMC cannot put institutions on trial. Nor can it conduct a wide-ranging inquiry, reviewing all the available evi-

dence. It was hearing specific charges against individual doctors, and only the evidence deemed relevant to these charges was heard at the trial. One conclusion may be that in cases where there is widespread disquiet, a wide ranging public

inquiry is the best response. The evidence given during the case also raises some wider issues, ranging beyond the remit of the GMC. The doctors operating at Bristol were not specialised paediatric surgeons. They were operating on a small number of babies. They did not have a dedicated unit or team; they were working on a split site, with babies having to be transported to one hospital to another. So why were the babies not operated at one of the highly specialised hospitals with

a much better record? One answer is, of course, that it is impossible to ensure

Or killing so many of our children?

'My son died, but I forgive the surgeon'

think twice when James Wisheart told her that the hole- the best life they could. in-the-heart operation he pro-

Amid all the recriminations, grief and anger over the Bristol heart babies, few parents are 1994. His parents were told to inclined to be forgiving. Mrs expect him back by afternoon. Rundle, 32, is an exception. hut there was a delay and they Although she knows something was wrong at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, she cannot find it in them the operation had gone herself to blame Mr Wisheart. After Matthew died, she and her husband, who works for a chemical company near their home in Tintagel, Cornwall, wrote to thank him for doing all

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· POR SECTION

"I am one of those people that trusts people. I can't believe a surgeon would lie. He did seem a very nice man. When Matthew went into hospital he was suffering from hed sores and they sent over to Paris to get a special bed for him. Nothing seemed to be too much trouble. A lot of parents can't stand done. Sandy was at home. Mr Wisheart after what happened, but I can't share that. We were really pleased with the care Matthew had. I am sure he never went into the operating theatre with anything but an intention to help."

But she expresses the disbelief shared by parents and the public that operations which were going disastrously wrong were allowed to continue for so loog. "I find it hard to believe people tried to stop them and no one had the power. Somebody must have the power to stop a surgeon.*

Matthew was born with Down's syndrome on 5 June 1993 and only later diagnosed with his heart problem, deliv- Matthew Rundle was ten ering a double shock to his months old when he died

son and have since had two SANDY RUNDLE did not more. They decided to devote themselves to giving Matthew

He was one of the last babies posed for her son, Matthew, had to be operated on by Mr Wisa 90 per cent chance of success. heart for the hole-in-the-heart "I thought you go into hos- condition known as atriovenpital to get better. I never tricular septal defect (AVSD). thought we would come home He was ten months old. Seven without Matthew. I took 90 of the previous 13 babies conper cent to be pretty good. sidered by the GMC had died With hindsight, I suppose I making Mr Wisheart's survival should have asked more ques- rate at that point less than 50 per cent.

Matthew was taken down to theatre at 8am on 28 March did not see him again until early evening. Mr Wisheart told well but there had been some difficulty getting him off the heart bypass machine.

For the next seven days, Matthew lay on a ventilator in Intensive care, his condition veering wildly. One minute he would be doing well, next there was an emergency. His face began to swell but Mr Wisheart told them that it was just fluid.

On the evening of the fifth of April, Nigel, Matthew's father, went to the cinema. When he returned to the hospital he was told nothing more could be

"My husband called and



said Matthew was not very good and I should go up. I still didn't suspect anything was seriously wrong.

11 pm they switched off the ventilator. Matthew died at midnight. Since his death, the Rundle's have taken little part in the campaign to expose what went on at Bristol, feeling that it disturbs their son's memory.

We could honestly say we had done everything we could for him and we had peace of mind. But when this case came up I started to relive it all. Your peace of mind goes and you wonder if you took him to the wrong hospital. I don't feel Matthew is laid to rest while all this is going on."

But she understands why other parents, not called to give evidence at the GMC as she was, want a public induity. "A lot of people feel they have not been heard. I can understand wby they want to take it further. They want the truth about their own children to come out."



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demand public inquiry on the window. "The scope of see these doctors brought to justhe inquiry was not wide tice we can ensure that some-THE PARENTS of the children enough, she said. "There is still

Grief-stricken parents

By Kate Watson-Smyth

who died called for a public in- a lot more to be investigated in again. quiry yesterday and said the this case. This is just the tip of GMC inquiry did not go far the iceberg. We need a public people just didn't know what enough. Helen Rickard, whose 11-

month-old daughter Samantha formed by James Wisheart. said: "I am not pleased and I ably feel the same way as me." ogy from Mr Wisheart or the lost two children. As Mr Wisheart left the

GMC headquarters with his band committed snicide two years after their daughter's death-walked alongside his taxi

inquiry to find out exactly what happened."

died after a heart operation pereration on 3 February 1992. This has shattered my life and think most parents today prob- I have oot had one world of apolhospital or the GMC," she said.

Tracey Clarke, whose 11by Janardan Dhasmana, said: shouting "bastard" and banging sa back but I feel that if we can needs to admit that."

thing like this never happens

"So many babies died and

was going on.
"I had another baby within Mrs Rickard's daughter un- a year of Melissa dying and if she had been born with the same defect she would have gone to the same hospital with the same doctors and I would have probably

"We do need a public inquiry. It is not just about the opwife, Mrs Rickard - whose hus- month-old daughter Melissa erations, but the events leading died in 1991 after an operation up to the operations and aftercare too. Something went seri-"Nothing can ever bring Melis- ously wrong and somebody

checks on competence

the best places. But if so, what not agree. All they could agree can be done to minimise dangez? One response would be to marks against which perforensure that surgeons receive adequate training before embarking on procedures new to them but already well established elsewhere. This has been done in the case of minimally invasive surgeon. The Bristol case underlines the need to do so more generally.

The Bristol case also carries a further message which is that defining competence is a difficult task. In the evidence given at the trial, there was a general acceptance that the results fell below the best and that there was a need to imwas eventually appointed. But when does a less than brilliant performance become unacgeon stop operating? The dure on very small babies, ambiguity. reptable? When should a sur-

the best surgeon operating at various expert witnesses could was that there are no benchmances could be measured.

Clearly the medical profession faces a major challenge - to devise the standards against which the performance of individual practitioners can be assessed. This is clearly an urgent task for two new bodies promised by the Government - the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and the Commission for Health Improvement. If there was any doubt abont the need for such bodies, the Bristol case has dis-

pelled it. The Bristol case was conprove performance: in fact, a cerned with a particularly high specialised paediatric surgeon . risk area of medicine. The surgeons involved were carrying out what one of the expert witnesses described as a particularly "unforgiving" proce-

demanding an extraordinarily high degree of skill and confidence. Failure is hoth more highly visible and tragic in its consequences than in the case of most medicine. If doctors over-prescribe or make poor diagnoses, the implications are

likely to be less dramatic. Ensuring competence in the hread and butter business of medicine is likely to be a more subtle and also more difficult task than ensuring competence in heroic surgery. In the last resort, there can be no substitute for doctors themselves to audit and monitor what they and their colleagues do as a matter of rou-

And the GMC trial, for all the ambiguity of the outcome. should send a powerful message to doctors about their responsibilities in this respect. On this crucial point, there is no





A period costume helped recreate the golden age of steam engines at Aviemore station in Scotland yesterday, following the completion of a £2.5m restoration project, aimed at promoting the resort as a year-round holiday destination

Euro-sceptics' anger at 'rigged' election lists

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

TORY MEPs are being accused by their colleagues of wining and dining party chairmeo on trips to Brussels at the European taxpayer's expense to beat off a challeoge to their seats from Euro-sceptics.

Dozens of Tory party chairmen who help to make up the regional boards that select the candidates for next year's Euronean elections have been invited out to Brussels on paid trips funded through the European

"It stinks to high heaven," said one disgruntled Tory Eurosceptic. The result of cotertaining the party officials on the

high-powered Euro gravy train is that only one Euro-sceptic is believed to have got through to the selection shortlists.

A Ceotral Office source last night confirmed the trips had been taking place using mooey available for "information purposes," but denied it was armtwisting the selection panels. A Tory MP said: "It has been

very effectively organised by the MEPs and they are reaping the rewards... The Euro-sceptics have been less effective." The Euro-sceptics also claim

that some of those involved in sclection boards have been invited to meetings in London with leading pro-European Tory figures, including Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine.

The allegations came as Tory Euro-sceptics threatened a revolt at this year's Tory Party conference over the selection of pro-Euro candidates for the European elections.

William Hague, the Tory leader, is hoping to use the conference as a springboard to rebuild the party's electoral chances and will be dismayed if is as divided as ever over Europe.

But Euro-sceptic Tory supporters are furious that key Euro-sceptic figures, including the former MPs ex-Chancellor cial relationship with the US. Norman Lamont, Tony Marlow and Nichotas Budgen, have failed to make it to the regional candidates' lists.

The grass roots will explode because they are being imposition of common EU policompletely ignored," said one cies on Britain destroying the

terview in the West Midlands It is a complete stitch-up. The Euro-sceptics are claim

ing they represent the majora. ty opinioo within the party and reflect the policy adopted by the Tory leader to oppose the single European currency until the eod of the next parliament.

As the row threatens to engulf the leadership, the final selection meetings for the biggest regions - in the South East; West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber - will be held this weekend.

The Tory Party said yesterday the meetings "will mark the culmination of the party's new, open and democratic process in: which all party members from each region were eligible to vote for and rank their favoured candidates."

A Tory spokesman said: "It is super-Saturday because the three bigger regions are selecting. The members will be arriving en masse for the selection

■ Michael Portillo, the former defence minister, last night the disruption shows the party reinforced his Euro-sceptic credentials in a speech in Washingtoo warning that membership of the European single currency will end Britain's spe-

He was due to tell the American Enterorise Institute the "headlong rush" into a single curreccy looked "perilous".

The euro would lead to the Euro-sceptic Tory. "Some of special relationship.

IN BRIEF

Army chaplain cleared on harassment charges

An Army chaplaio accused of harassing a soldier and his wife was partially cleared by a court martial yesterday. Padre Captain Richard Landall, 41, was acquitted oo two counts of ha-

The ruling came after the court martial panel at Aldershot, Hants, heard that Fusilier Sean Brazier, the soldier at the centre of the allegations, told a senior officer: "My wife and I weren't harassed." The evidence came from Fusilier Bra zier's adjutant Captain Andrew Rawding.

Capt Landali had told the hearing his job was the most important thing in his life and he would oever do anything to jeopardise his vocation.

The chaplain still faces four charges of indecently assaulting another soldier's wife. The hearing resumes oo Monday.

Nazi war-crimes trial

A MAN aged 77 was yesterday sent for trial on war crimes charges linked to the Second World War.

Retired railway worker Anthony Sawoniuk, 77, from Bermondsey, south-east London, was committed at Bow Street magistrates court to stand trial at the Old Bailey on four charges of murdering Jewish people in a town under German occupatioo in Byelorussia in 1942.

Sawoniuk allegedly murdering two men and two womeo in Domachevo in circumstances constituting a violation of the

Thief jailed for widow's death

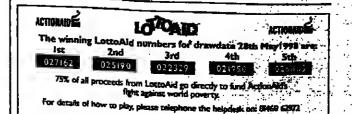
A BOGUS official who killed a frail 84-year-old widow during a series of violent robberies was jailed for 17 years yesterday. Francis Dickinson, 32, admitted manslaughter and 11 offences of robbery or burglary between October 1996 and August 1997. In August last year, he returned to the home of one of his earlier victions, Eliza "Betty" Brown, a diabetic with Parkinson's disease who lived alone in Finchley, north London. He manhandled her, then threw her into a corner. Her head hit the cooker and she died later from the injury.

Euro MPs back slurry power

PLANS for a revolutionary dung-fuelled power station were unveiled yesterday to a group of Euro MPs who gave their backing for the multi-million pound plan. Britain's first slurry power station, that runs oo cow dung, is to be built in Holsworthy, Devon, and will supply the market town's energy. The Euro MP and Tory energy spokesman Giles Chichester, who is pushing for European Union funding to help support the £7m scheme, said it offered "hope for the future"

Triplets defy the odds

A WILTSHIRE couple are celebratiog the birth of separate triplets - said by fertility experts to be an extremely rare occurrence. Claire Dann, 23, from Zeals, near Warminster, conceived Rhys, Saraya and Amelia, without the aid of fertility treatment. They do not have the genetic linkage of identical triplets as each derives from a single rather than split egg.



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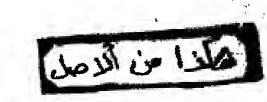
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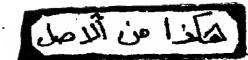
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Premier League kicks out Sky's pay-per-view plan

Media Correspondent

PREMIER League club chairmen yesterday rejected proposals to introduce pay-per-view football coverage on Sky Television's digital service next season, sparking speculation that clubs may launch their own channels.

The clubs' decision is a huge blow to Sky's fledgling digital television service, due to launch next month. Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster would have sed pay-per-view (PPV) soccer to drive sales of the £200 decoder boxes needed to receive the 200-plus digital channels.

Fans who objected to the proposals remain doubtful about

diesbrough Football Clubs are well advanced on plans to launch

The proposals put to the club chairmen yesterday came from

the league's intentions; both

Manchester United and Mid- aware of the value of television their own subscription channels.

March to develop options with Sky for the introduction of PPV. The plan was to move four Saturday games to Sunday so that three games could be broadcast on a PPV basis. Fans objected to the move, because of the difficulties involved in travelling to games on a Sunday. Opposition from the Football Supporters' Association also focused on the cost of PPV, which would disenfranchise

fans on low incomes. Peter Leaver, the Premier League chief executive, said in a statement yesterday: "Premier League clubs have decided not to proceed with proposals that have been put forward in relation to pay-per-view television."

PPV in the future, describing the league as "determined ... to act in the best interests of the game and its supporters".

Mr Leaver is reported to be against a PPV deal with Sky in favour of the Premier League having its own channels. The clubs have become increasingly league games until 2001.

rights and may be keen to hold off on PPV until they are in a position themselves to cash in. Mr Leaver left the possibilities open yesterday, saying: "We want to a working party formed in develop broadcasting arrange ments which ... secure the right future for English football."

sex, II

A spokesman for the Football Supporters' Association expressed caution on hearing the League's decision. He said on Radio 5 Live: "I'm surprised. I wonder if they have something up their sleeves."

Sky is unlikely to give up easily. As part of the league's contract with the channel, the two are committed to developing PPV together until 2001, although Sky cannot go ahead without the clubs' agreement.

Vic Wakeling, head of sport at Sky, said yesterday that he was not disappointed with the never going to be agreed today - there are still too many details to be discussed," he said.

A Sky spokesman added that the working party is expected to reconvene next week.

Meanwhile, the Premier League confirmed it has extended BBC Radio 5 Live's exclusive contract for live radio coverage of

UK appeals over arms ban

Political Correspondent

BRITAIN is supporting calls for the United Nations to drop its arms embargo on Sierra Leone, it emerged last night.

The Foreign Office confirmed the move after a furore over allegations of official collusion with the breaking of the ban by a British company, San-dline International, A Customs and Excise investigation concluded that Sandline could not Government's role, and an independent inquiry into the affair is now under way.

The arms embargo was imposed last October after the Sierra Leone president, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, was overthrown and exiled to nearby Guinea.

Britain and the United Nations supported Kabbah's return to power, and the resolution said that the UN Security Council would return to the issue if he was reinstated.

Since his return to the capital, Freetown, in March, Presidem Kabbah's troops have faced fierce attacks in the countryside by soldiers loval to Johnny Koroma, who had overthrown him

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and was in turn ousted. A Foreign Office spokesman said a new resolution was being drafted in the light of changed

circumstances. York on that and we hope the week.

new resolution can be drafted and adopted soon," he said.

Our view is now that the conditions that were required in the original resolution have been satisfied. "With the restoration of de-

mocratic government and constitutional order, the time has come to lift the ban on arms sales to the government but we should maintain the embargo against non-governmental forces." The Sierra Leone Govern-

ment and Ecomog - the West be prosecuted because of the African peacekeeping force that overthrew the junta and brought President Kabbah back from exile - would be exempted from a new British-backed arms embargo, he added.

Reports at the weekend suggested that UN lawyers believed that supplying Ecomog with arms might not have been a breach of the embargo after But the Foreign Office made

clear last night that the UN legal opinion was specific advice about Ecomog, and would not have affected Sandline's posi-

The Foreign Office admitted that its interpretation of the existing resolution was at odds with that of the UN lawyers, but defended its decision to report Sandline's sales of arms to Sicrra Leone.

Consultations on the issue "Work is in hand in New are expected to continue next

A little chat at a flick of the wrist

By Glenda Cooper Concurner Affairs Correspondent

"TIME will reveal everything, said Euripides. "It is a babbler and speaks even when not asked." It seems the world's largest watch manufacturer, Swatch, has taken him at his word and have come up with the first wristwatch which doubles as a telephone.

Obviously, a watch which simply tells the time is not good enough anymore. For those worrying if they have enough time to talk, the Swatch Talk watch, which will be launched in Britain at a date yet to be announced, is the latest development from the cheap and cheerful brand which has already integrated pagers into watches and developed the world's thinnest watch, Swatch Skin.

The Swatch Talk has a speaker and microphone built into the side and works in the same way as a digital cordless fordable and it is thought to be phone. The numbers no the face around £213,



phone and timepiece

are touch sensitive and double as the telephone dial numbers. "It is totally new technolo-

gy." said a spokesman yesterday. For those worried about looking stupid, the watch is powerful enough to keep your wrist at a distance from your face. The price is not fixed at the moment, but Swatch says it is af-

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Return to: Pride of De

Sex, lies and Louise Woodward's lawyer

and David Usborne

FRIENDS of Louise Woodward rushed to the au pair's defence yesterday at the end of a week in which support from the British media began to show signs of cracking.

"Louise is a lying monster" screamed the Mirror, quoting one of her lawyers, Elaine Whitfield-Sharp, complaining about her to a friend - later identified as the freelance journalist Annette Witheridge during a secretly taped telephone conversacion.

No matter that the "lies" related not to the death of Matthew Eappen, the baby who died from head injuries while in Louise's care, hut to Ms Whitfield-Sharp's claims that she was negotiating to sell her



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ELaine Whitfield-Sharp's conversation with a friend about Louise Woodward

story - something she had promised not to do. Coupled with the lawyer suggesting that a book deal was in the offing, from raising the spectre of going horribly wrong.

The cracks began to show on Ms Whitfield-Sharp, 44, on a drink-drive charge during which nocent, hot now I know she is guilty and I can't handle it."

The lawyer has since denied making the statement and alleged that the officer, Sgt Randy off if she agreed to have sex with him, something he has denied. But it gave the Mirror the opportunity to use the splash headline: "She did it."

For Louise, 20, it all added to the tension. She was con-Matthew in Bostoo, Massachusetts. She was freed last November wheo Judge Hiller Zobel reduced the charge to manslaughter and sentenced her to time served.

Now she is awaiting the ootcome of prosecution and de-

her either sent back to jail for Whitfield-Sharp's claims to life, with a minimum of 15 years before parole, or cleared of all charges and allowed to return home. The result is ex-

pected any day. During the taped telephone conversation published in yesterday'a Mirror, Ms Whitfield-Sharp allegedly tells her "friend" about her disintegrating relationship with Louise, who lived at her home for some time before moving out acrimoniously.

"I don't want any more trouble with Louise Woodward than I have already got," she says. You know she is a fucking pain in the ass. I have to tell you that when this is over, I want to quit."

Describing Louise as "a duplicitous monster" and her family as "very low class", Ms Whitfield-Sharp claims that she and her mother, Sue, lied about meeting a lawyer colleague when, in fact, they were holdiog negotiations with a Daily Mail representative who was offering £40,000 for their story.

one piece of good news in all the

gloom: Matthew's parents, Sunil and Deborah Eappen,

have a oew son. Baby Kevin

weighed in at 7lb 8oz when he

was born last Monday, the day

after Matthew would have cel-

ebrated his second birthday.

"I am flabbergasted," she said. "I have just found out about this Daily Mail thing. The agreement was - and the representatioo has always been - that the Woodwards would never make any money on this The Daily Mail said yester-

day that it would oot be paying money to Louise in line with the **Press Complaints Commission** rule that criminals should not benefit by talking about their crime. Silverglate and Good, her Bostoo lawyers, said no hook deal had been done, but that did not prevent Ms Whitfield-Sharp it still smacked of something wroogdoing during the taped conversation.

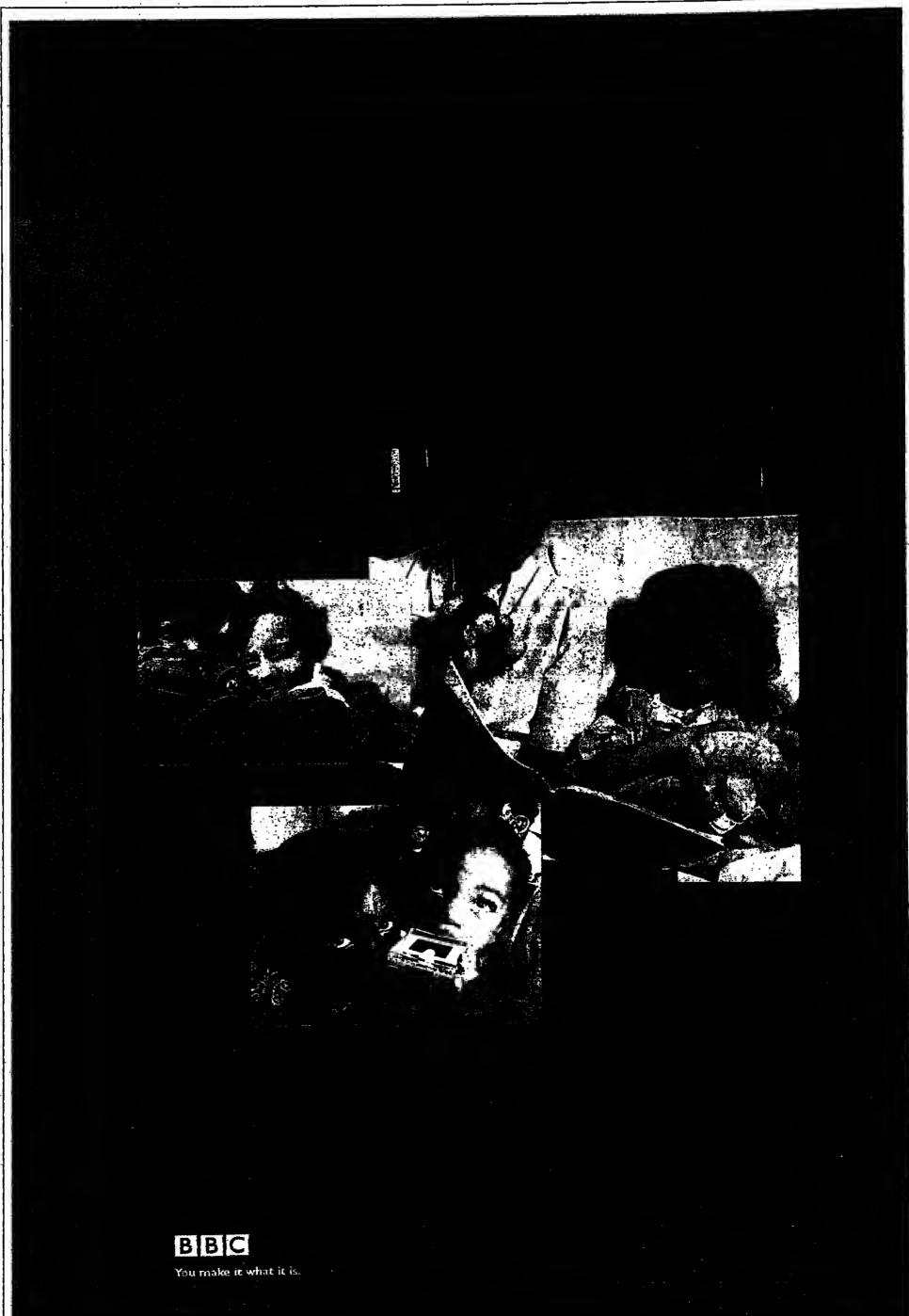
"I find it a little strange Thursday following the arrest of when some people have already contributed money in Britain that they are taking she allegedly told the arresting £40,000," she said. And, exofficer: "I thought she was in- pressing worries about Louise's defence fund, she said: "I worked for six months for free."

This, at least, gave Louise's supporters something to hit back at. The Rev Keo Davey, Cipoletta, said he would let her the vicar of Ince and Elton in Cheshire and one of the fund's trustees, said: "Everything is fully accounted for as far as the trustees are concerned. Any allegations that there is no accountability would be downright lies." He said legal fees had victed of the second degree been running at about £50,000 murder of eight-month-old a month and that world-wide donations of £250,000 were now down to the last £50,000. "I have got a bill from [Ms Whitfield-Sharp] here," he added in response to the lawyer's claim to be working for

Paul Barrow, the fund's sofence appeals which could see licitor, also said that Ms



Elaine Whitfield-Sharp and Louise Woodward waiting for the judgment last November. Their relationship has now turned sour Photograph: Reuters





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Fears multiply over growth of genetic farms



Designer campaigners against designer crops. Charlotte Green at the site of an open-air squat in Norfolk.

Photograph: Brian Harris tee's chairman, said such mea- Nature, suggesting that the his post.

Science and Technology Editor

THE number of sites planted with genetically-engineered crops in the UK has more than doubled in the past two years. according to records kept by the Department of the Environ-

There are 182 sites in the UK where transgenic crops are being grown - of which 96 have started since 1997.

ment, which monitors such "re-

The sites are spread throughout the UK, including both Wales and Scotland, though many are concentrated in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. Some of the present trials

have been up and running since The Government set up its

present registration system, under which companies and research organisations must request permissioo before releasing any transgenic species into the environment, in 1992.

The "releases" are monitored by ACRE, the Government's Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, which considers each applica-

Earlier this year ACRE named and shamed" a number of companies, including the multinational Monsanto, for failing to keep to the experimental procedures they had laid dow

John Beringer, the commit-

more than fines."

In almost every case, the crops in the offending experiments were dug up, and the areas treated with paraquat.

The experiments now underway vary from 10,000 square metre plots of crops such as sugar heet, which have an extra gene making them resistant to a particular herbicide - being run by the huge multinational anto, which already grows such crops commercially in the US - to wheat "cootaining genes to improve dough elasticity" so that it will make tasti-

cr bread. The latter experiment is being done in a tiny 50-metre square patch by the John Innes research centre in Norwich.

The concerns of protesters are actually the same as those of ACRE, and of the scientists who are carrying out the experiments: that the test plants might somehow cross-ferrilise, so that the inserted genes - say. conferring resistance to herbicides - will reach the plants such as weeds they could not otherwise reach.

That could mean make the problems of weeds worse, rather than better, because oew

herbicides would be needed to wipe them out. However, earlier this week two scientists from the University of Reading's department of agricultural botany published a

sures were "worth many times chances of such "transgene movement" is low. They studied oilseed rape plants along the Thames, comparing its wild habitats with commercially pro-ഷവാലർ ones.

They concluded that the potential for genes to cross between cultivated and wild species is low, and would only happen slowly - but that that could change "if the transgene confers a significant selective ad-

vantage".

Anyooc familiar with the principles of evolution will recognise that that comment carries a veiled warning. A herhicide-resistant gene carries an obvious selective advaotage to any weed that manages to ac-

What researchers are still trying to ascertain is how easithat could happen through cross-fertilisation. At present, the indications are that the chances are remote.

But not every experiment runs smoothly.

In 1994 the Oxford-based Institute of Virology ran into problems when it tested a geoetically-engineered pesticide containing a virus which was enhanced with scorpion venom. Its intention was to kill off caterpillars eating cabbages.

But the trial descended into near-farce when the virus was found to be cootaminated with the "wild" version.

Soon afterwards the head of study in the science journal the institute, David Bishop, left

Campaigners cultivate a greener way to grow

A group of environmentalists Enemies of hi-tech has taken their protest right to the root of the matter: the fertile fields of Norfolk, where local farmers are growing genetically modified crops.

The 30-stroog group of local and national campaigners opposed to genetic engineering set up the camp near Kirby Bedon in Norfolk last Saturday and plan to stay for about a month.

"Actions like this are the only way of brioging people togeththat something can be done to stop these experiments with life," said Paul Gill, one of the

Charlotte Green, added: "We are trying to demonstrate in a symbolic manner alternatives to the massive use of pesticides and herbicides. We are showing ways of increasing soil fertility using organic methods."

Helen Morgan, a local activist, said: "Many people are concerned about the implications of these crops on our health and the environment, but as well as showing our concern, we are also discussing the al-

The site is going well. There

veg are camping out in Norfolk, writes

is an information centre, organic gardens and lots of visitors," she

Linus Gregoriadis

But Ms Green, 36, said they would oot eat the vegetables they were growing in case there

was a risk to their health.

She said the site is the work of a diverse group of people, some who have specialist knowledge of genetics and others who have learnt about the issue more recently.

"There are several geoetics experts and others who have studied agriculture who have a lot of detailed knowledge," Ms Green said. "There are other people who are very alarmed about the lack of debate and public awareness of what is happening on open field sites.

These are kept pretty secret. The companies have to put some kind of a notice in the local paper, but these can go

largely unnoticed. Most local people didn't know that genetically modified crops were being grown in open fields.

Greeopeace and the Womeo's Environment Network have been campaigning and lobbying about this for some time. People who have heeo following the subject have been making it their business to get information about it."

Although the protesters have been camping out for a week now, the group is ool shot of essectials, Ms Greeo said.

"We have a cafe here cooking wonderful meals. We get water from a local person. We have got pretty much all we oecd."

The idea for the "Genetix Crop Squat" came from members of Norfolk Genetic Conceru and Action Against Genetic Engineering who are intent on raising awareness about the hurgeoning number of these sites.

The corporations developing these crops say they wel-come public debate, but it has been too little too late," said Mr Gill. "These crops are io our fields now - therefore we must

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Securicor is fined £50,000 for running of suicide-prone jail die in fire

By jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

A PRIVATE jail that has been hit by suicides and violence since it was opened nine months ago has been fined £50,000 by the Prison Service for failing to be run properly.

Richard Tilt, the Director General of the Prison Service, yesterday said that things were not right" at Parc jail near Bridgend, South Wales, which is run by Securicor. The penalty was imposed for Securicor's failure to tell prison officials that about 60 immates had refused to return to their cells as part of a protest bruary. Extra staff had to ded in from Cardiff and Swansea jails to help.

Mr Telt yesterday said that a further fine was being considered for Parc's failure to provide enough cells for inmates. Earlier this month, the prisoos minister, Joyce Quin, ordered an inquiry into the running of

The prison uses a hi-tech system to hold some 750 immates who are issued with "swipecards" to open doors and buy goods. The refusal by immates to return to their cells come shortly after fighting by prisoners on the exercise yard and the snicide of Dal-

las Lee, 27, serving life for murder, who was found hanged in his cell - the second suicide since the £80m jail opened last September.

A spokesman for Securicor said: "There's oow an actioo plan in place to strengthen the running of the prison."

The move against the private jail came as the Prison Service was praised for meeting all but one of its 11 key performance targets set by the Government. Despite record oumbers of people being locked up there were fewer escapes and positive drug tests. The only category it failed on was the target set over assaults on staff.

But Mark Healy, national chairman of the Prison Officers Association, criticised the figures, arguing that the targets were set at a low level, virtually ensuring that they could be met. An example given was the target time that prisoners should spend out of their cells being cut from 12 hours a day

Prison chiefs are to press for improved security in courts after it was disclosed that three-quarters of the 72 inmates to escape from escort or court were by defendants jumping over the dock. Just 23 immates escaped from prisons during 1996-97.

Father and children

FOUR young children and their 30-year-old father died in a fire at a flat in Renfrew, oear Glasdropped in the back bedroom, where three boys were sleeping.

Strathclyde Fire Brigade said there was a smoke alarm in the house, but they could find oo evidence of a battery.

The fire started at around 6am. A ground-floor neighbour ran up to the third floor and kicked down the door before being beaten back by the thick smoke. The children'a mother and grandmother managed to escape along with a fifth child who was last night in hospital in a critical condition.

Police named the victims as John Lilley and four of his children: John, nine, Anne Louise, six, and three-year-old twins Brian and Michael. Another daughter, 10-year-old Cherelle, was transferred to Glasgow's Yorkhill Hospital where her condition was critical. The children's mother Janet McLean, 33, and grandmother Ann Lilley, 55, were treated for the effects of smoke inhalation at the city's Southern General Hospital.

A police spokesman said the cause of the fire was still being investigated, but that it was probably due to a dropped light.

Are Britain's divers getting out of their depth?

By Clare Garner

THE Health and Safety Executive is investigating the death of a scuba diver earlier this week and may prosecute the diving school involved in the accident which has prompted renewed fears about the safety of the sport in this country.

The diver, a 34-year-old married man from south London, drowned eight miles out in the Channel, off Littlehampton. West Sussex. Four of the eight other divers in the party were rushed to hospital suffering from the hends after surfacing too fast without decompression stops. They were diving at a depth of 90 feet.

An increasing number of Britons are going on diving return home many decide to explore the UK waters. What currents are worse. Inexperiing in Britain is often far more account of these factors and are al two years ago, said: "If you're er, the certification card which



holidays abroad. When they If you've been trained to dive in the Red Sea, it doesn't mean you can cope with conditions in a cold water gravel pit in England

Photograph: Jim Edds

some fail to realise is that div- enced divers are failing to take the magazine Dive Internation- gravel pit in England." Howev- holder to dive in any waters,

own - or even with a buddy -"Maybe the rules should be until they have done more su-

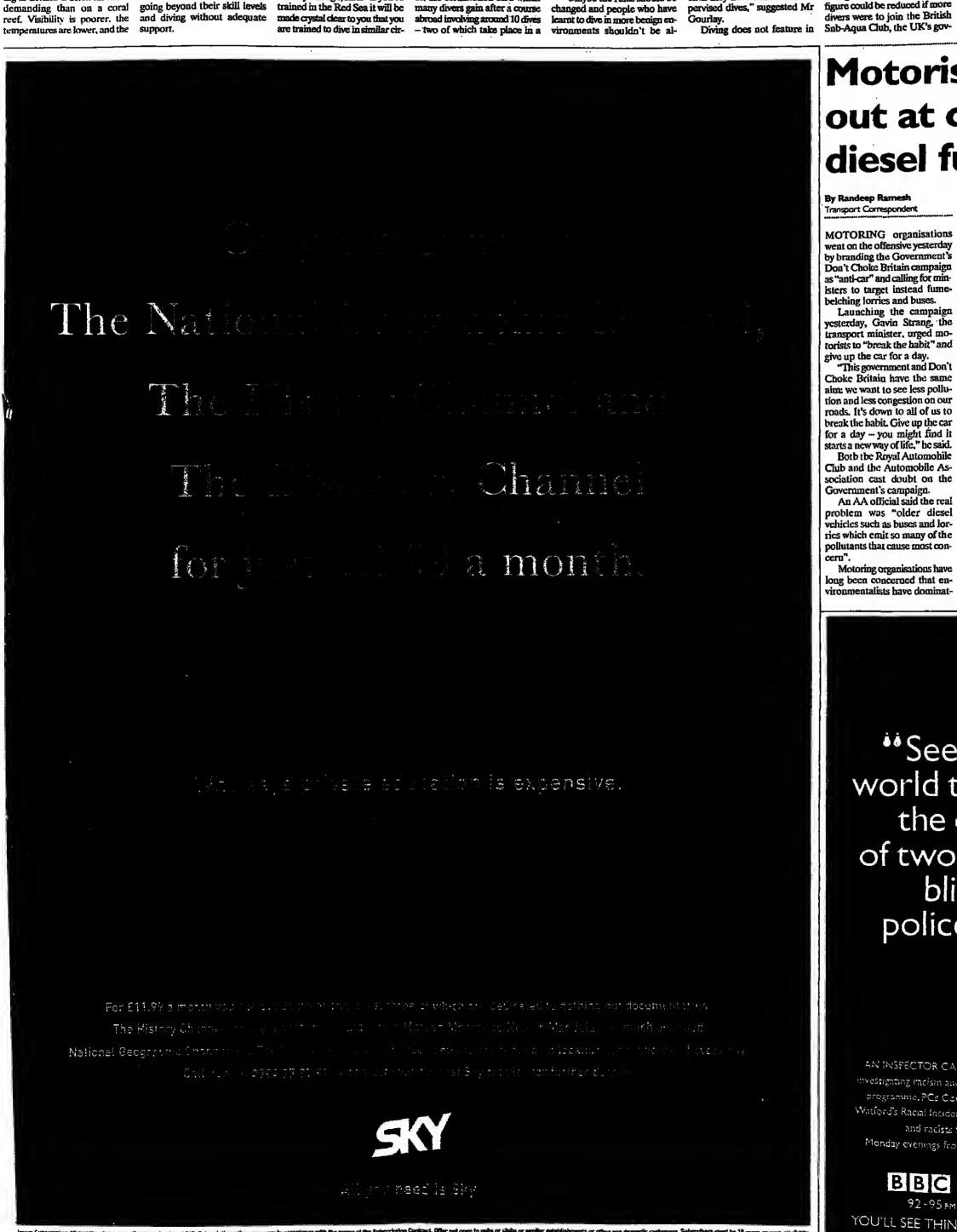
Graeme Gourlay, who set up cumstances, not in a cold water swimming pool - allows the lowed to dive in the UK on their the top 10 list of risk sports. Last year there were 16 deaths from diving in Britain. However, this figure could be reduced if more divers were to join the British

erning body for sports diving, believes the club's vice-chairman, David Roberts.

He said: "What tends to happen is people who have diving experience in only one site walk away with a ticket that allows them to dive anywhere in the world. Our training programme requires people to experience a range of conditions

before being certified." One of the deaths at Leicestershire's Stoney Cove inland site last year involved a diver with only four open water dives in his logbook and those had been undertaken in Malta.

A spokesman for the HSE, which is investigating whether in Wednesday's accident the instructors breached the Diving At Work Regulations 1997, said: "Diving is a growing sport, along with windsurfing and paragliding. Just as with other adventure sports, when you get into difficulties and you aren't prepared things can go wrong quite rapidly and have disastrous conse-



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Motorists hit out at choking diesel fumes

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

MOTORING organisations went on the offensive yesterday by branding the Government's Don't Choke Britain campaign as "anti-car" and calling for ministers to target instead fumebelching lorries and buses.

Launching the campaign yesterday, Gavin Strang, the transport minister, urged motorists to "break the habit" and give up the car for a day.

This government and Don't Choke Britain have the same aim: we want to see less pollution and less congestion on our roads. It's down to all of us to break the habit. Give up the car for a day -- you might find it starts a new way of life," he said.

Both the Royal Automobile Club and the Automobile Association cast doubt on the of up to 24,000 people a year. Government's campaign.

An AA official said the real problem was "older diesel the lorry lobby. "You can't ask vehicles such as buses and lorries which emit so many of the pollutants that cause most con-

Motoring organisations have long been concerned that environmentalists have dominat- of baked beans on a bike?"

ed transport thinking and aim to make a strong case for the car in the run-up to the publication of the Government's White Paper on transport next month.

Friends of the Earth produced figures yesterday claiming that since the beginning of the year air quality levels were being breached as often as once a week in some major cities.

"The true picture about pollution is more complicated." said Martin Maeso, the AA's head of research and environmental policy. "Our latest research shows that nearly 40 per cent of the pollution from particulates comes from 500,000 buses and lorries. Given these figures it seems odd to target the 23 million cars on the road."

Particulates - tiny deadly particles of dust - have been linked by ministers to the deaths

But the stance taken by the motoring organisations angered truckers to get out of their cabs. There is no alternative." said a spokesman for the Freight Transport Association.

"What are you going to do -ask a haulier to take 10 tonnes

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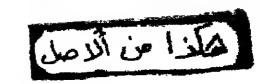
iver old Burn - DMA and State of Last

**See the world through the eyes of two colour blind policemen." AN INSPECTOR CALLS A two-part sories investigating racism and truancy. In this week's programme, PCs Couch and Auststrong of Watford's Racial Incident Unit deal with racism

and racists face-to-face Manday evenings from 1 June, 8.02 - 8.30.

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Dubliners come home to find Cool Hibernia

PAUL AND MARY Flynn abandoned London just as Cool Britannia arrived. With the hirth of twins, in addition to their two other children, they could not afford a decent house with adequate schools in a good area. Promotion heckoned Mr Flynn, a hospital doctor, back to Ireland. After all, was not Duhlin always the dream place to huy a fine, cheap house with plenty of land?

The Flynns have had a terrible shock. They landed in the middle of Cool Hibernia, a booming economy which makes Cool Britannia look sluggish. "We ended up having to move into a wreck which was virtually uninhabitable," said Mrs Flynn, 39, still reeling in her four-bedroom Fifties semi from the shock of managing four children with a cement mixer in the kitchen.

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For three months last autumn, her husband camped in the house at night with two of the older children, because it could not be secured properly. "Some nights there was no running water or electricity," she added. For the wreck, they paid £IR225,000 (£201,000). The £20,000 they made on their London home went to the Government in stamp duty.

But most people would congratulate them on securing their wreck in Killiney, on Dublin's south side near the sea. "It's gone up £700 a week since we bought it last summer," said Mrs Flynn. "A similar one down the road just went for £IR385,000."

Such price rises are a sign of a remarkable boom. Last year, gross domestic product grew by more than 10 per cent. Now, as the Republic prepares for European economic and monetary nnion, its key interest rate of 6.75 per cent must almost halve by the end of the year, to match German rates. With inflation still below 3 per cent and big investment from international computer firms capitalising on a well-educated population, there seems no end to the eountry's massive growth.

So, where 10 years ago derelict overgrown spaces or abandoned Victorian piles littered the capital, today dozens of new hotels and an estimated £500m worth of new apart-. ment blocks have appeared, boosted by tax incentives for developers and purchasers.

In major towns traffic gridlock has gripped the centres. Regiments of gleaming new hatchbacks driven by smart young women are prominent among commuters, a contrast with the climate of permanent recessioo three decades ago when many women were forced to leave their jobs when they married.

"The buzz is incredible," said Mark Cassin, a 34-year-old Dubliner, who runs DMA, a directing marketing agency. Last night, he was heading out of town. "We'll be water-skiing on the Shannon down in Tipperary." he explained, pointing out just how much the Irish midlands, once becalmed deadlands, are

turning into a yappie playground.

Diblin's such an exciting city to live in." he said. "The number of French, Germans and Igalians you see moving in So what is behind this price could be explosion? "For good historical casons, the Irish have had an observe attachment to land and acquiring it," said Roy Foster, Carroll Professor of hish History of the adjacent room drown out the proceedings. Sudde you could hear a born-age preacher telling the policy means acquiring it," said Roy Foster, Carroll Professor of hish History gether and pray to God ..."



day, Bono another."

in Baggot Street - are as popu-

'In the Eighties, I

semi in Kentish

Town for a stud

farm in Meath'

challenging old loyalties.

going for good."

seeing a star, a Spice girl one at Oxford University. In a way, he says, it is a repeat of events The landmarks remain and in the 19th and early 20th centhe old pubs - Toner's, Doheny turies when British governments and Nesbit's and O'Donohue's

supplied large sums of money to

allow the Irish tenantry to buy

lar as ever. But walk across the out their landlords, This time, the Ha'penny Bridge and you'll find cash comes from a combination of affluent returning emigrants the new Pravda bar-restaurant with its neat Forties lights and and expedient lenders bending rules on income-loan ratios. plain woodwork offering Stalin-John Bruton, leader of the ist chic. Such is the popularity of opposition Fine Gael party, essome pubs that queues form several evenings a week by 9pm. timates that one-third of Dublin house sales are to cash-rich In a country that has enjoyed a long love-affair with America, speculators capitalising on esthe new buzz is determinedly Eucalating rent levels. Behind this ropean. The really chic gather in lies a large disparity in wealth

continental restaurants and bars distribution, inflated by decades

such as The Unicorn, La Stamof a tolerance of tax evasion. pa, Cafe En Seine, Fitzer's. The boom is inevitably pro-Guinness is still king hut Belgian ducing some regrets. "In the Eighties, I could have sold my semi in Kentish Town for a stud farm in Meath," ruminated Professor Foster. Among poorer, could have sold my Irish emigrants to Britain, dreams of a return are being dashed. "There is a lot of anger," said Father Jerry Kivlehan of the London Irish Centre. "People who came here in the Fifties and Sixties and thought Roy Foster they could sell up and go home find it very difficult to secure suitable accommodation."

Professor Foster forsees political tensions. "All this ... is and German bottled lagers are quite in line with other Euro-Duhlin conversation has pean cities, where most people changed utterly. Once, like a expect to rent. In Ireland, we are scene from Channel 4's Father becoming proud of being European. I'm not sure that this as-Ted, you could chat endlessly pect of European life with be as about so and so, who had gone to such and such a foreign land. agreeable as pavement cafe culture and cheap BMWs." "These days, they're all coming

The Dublin government is trying to raise the supply of hack," said Mr Cassin. "Sure, people say I'm away working for three months. But it's a long housing, notably by relaxing time since I heard anyone was planning restrictions. Tax concessions available to investorbuyers have also been cut to Instead, the chat is about dampen demand. property. Irish home ownership But Cool Hibernia still threat-

stands at 80 per cent and rising. against a European average of ens to leave many behind. And 56 per cent. Would-be purit remains unclear what sort of Ireland will emerge. On Thurschasers clutching tea flasks and sleeping hags have queued for day, a meeting of economists, days outside site offices in south councils and property interests Duhlin and Drogheda for afgrappled with the issue. The PA system broke down and voices fordable new suburban houses. from the adjacent room drowned So what is behind this price out the proceedings. Suddenly you could hear a born-again preacher telling the policy makers: "Let us now join hands to-



Boom-time development looms above old Dublin (left), while landmarks such as the Temple Bar (right) combine with street art and thic cases and restaurants to make the city buzz

Photographs: Eamonn Farrell



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Pakistan: 'We are a nuclear power'

By Peter Popham in New Delhi

THE morning after its ouclear tests, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Gohur Ayub Khan was in oo mood for false modesty. Pakistan was oow, be declared, "a ouclear weapons state", and he vowed to repel any attack from India "with a vengeance". "We have an active nuclear weapons programme, we are a ouclear power," he said.

Government assurances that Istamabad would oever use ouclear weapons for offensive purposes did oot do much to soften the impression given by the Foreign Minister that Pakistan was back in character. Over the last two and a half weeks it had an unfamiliar oew role thrust upon it by the world: nu- needs \$4.5bn to meet its current ctear paragon, tooely bearer of account deficit. the torch of ouclear absticence.

Baluchistan desert, Pakistan

ready to be lambasted again, as so ofteo io the past, for militarism and fanaticism.

test merely the leopard failing to change its spots, the natioo ruled for so much of its short history by military dictators proving unable to march to anything but the familiar martial tune?

Clearly, in Pakistan's view the rewards on offer for a display of restraint were insultingly scanty. Australia, for example. on Wedgesday offered to double its aid to Pakistan if it declined to test - from \$1.6m to \$3.2m. Measured against Pakistan's economic problems, such sums are a drop in the ocean. Pakistan's foreign reserves are tess than \$1bo (India's are around \$26bn), and this year it

Had the G8 been in earnest But with five explosions oo about drawing the noo-prolif-Thursday afternooo in the eration line down the Indo-Pakistan border, and turning India gave its eloquent response; it ioto a solitary pariah, they wanted oo such role. It was should have dug deep into their lation, By testing, and thereby ouclear, or both.

Was Pakistan's decision to

pockets. They didn't. Nor did provoking sanctions, Pakistan they offer any security guarantees against an Indian attack. Perhaps the West believed

has guaranteed itself a bout of bleak and potentially destabilising austerity. But not to have that, if Pakistao could oot choose afflueoce it would at would be to be forced to live least avoid embracing peoury. with the permanent threat of In-If so, it was a serious miscalcu- dian aggression, convectional,

There was substance to such fears. After the secood batch of Indian tests, oo 13 May, India's foreign policy, normally in the tested, as Pakistanis see it, remit of the cautious officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, was hijacked by belligerent Hindu nationalists, Madan Lal Khurana, a cabinet minister,

practically challenged Pakistan to come outside and fight, saying India was ready for a fourth war with Pakistan - "all they have to do is tell us the time and the place".

Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani threateoed a new onslaught against insurgents in

Kashmir, with "hot pursuit" into the sector ruled by Pakistan. And far from being held in check by the prime minister, Mr Advani was rewarded with having his area of responsibility exteoded to include the state of

Jammu and Kashmir.

Greenpeace activists in Athens yesterday protest at Pakistan's nuclear tests Photograph: Yannis Behrakis/Reuters

sabre-rattling of the government's extremists that persuaded Pakistan that oot testing was a non-option. There is a history behiod the ouclear brinkmanship between the two states, from an Indian military exercise in the border state of Punjab in 1986, to the flaring insurgency in Kashmir in 1990. As teosico between the two states mounted, India massed 200,000 troops oo the Pakistan border.

Pakistao also understood that with the Soviets defeated in Afghanistan, there was 00 chance of America coming to its aid. The only plausible threat to India was to take out New Delhi with a ouclear bomb. It was only through intense, secret negotiations involving America that the showdown was averted,

The vast imbalance between the two states in conventional forces - Iodia with oearly 1 million troops, for example, against Pakistan with a little over half that number - meant that Pakistan feels overwhelmingly obliged to match Indian ouclear

initiatives step by step. Whether the gung-ho but inexperienced leaders of India's government foresaw the inevitability of Pakistan's tit-fortat response is debatable. The rationale for India's tests was to haul itself up into the big power league, preferably earning a permanent seat in the Security Council in the process, while improving its security in the region. Far from being cataputted ioto the sort of world role it believes it deserves, Iodia fiods itself back down in the bear pit with the old ecemy.

Indonesia's inquiry into cronyism may hit British firms

By Richard Lloyd Parry

in Jaharta

INDONESIA'S Presideot, BJ Habibie, is considering the formation of a iodepeodeot commissioo oo corruptioo which will iovestigate busioess links between the family of the deposed dictator, Mr Suharto, and foreign iovestors, including a num-

ber of British companies. The new body would look for ev-

idence that foreign investors benefited from nepotistic favours granted by the former president. Contracts found to have been awarded unfairly would be withdrawn and retendered, although both the government and oppositioo rule out the possibility of legal action against foreign firms.

The special commission is part of a growing reaction against the Suharto family, some of whom became im-

president's 32-year rule from the acquisition of lucrative business contracts and monopolies. Yesterday, in what looked like an attempt to pre-empt any investigation, Mr Suharto's son Bambang Trihatmodjo, and his son-in-law. Indra Rukmana, resigned from the board of Bimantara Citra, one of Iudonesia's largest companies.

Last week, a joint venture between mensely rich during the former oldest son, Sigit, was suspended for

contract was awarded without a competitive teoder, on the orders of the former president. The public works ministry is also set to cancel a contract and opeo public tender," said Djoko awarded to the construction firm Trafalgar House and a Suharto daughter to build a toll road in west Java.

The idea of the commission on cor-Thames Water and Mr Suharto's ruption was recently discussed by Mr contemplate legal action against Habibie and Amien Rais, Indonesia's foreign companies who profited from

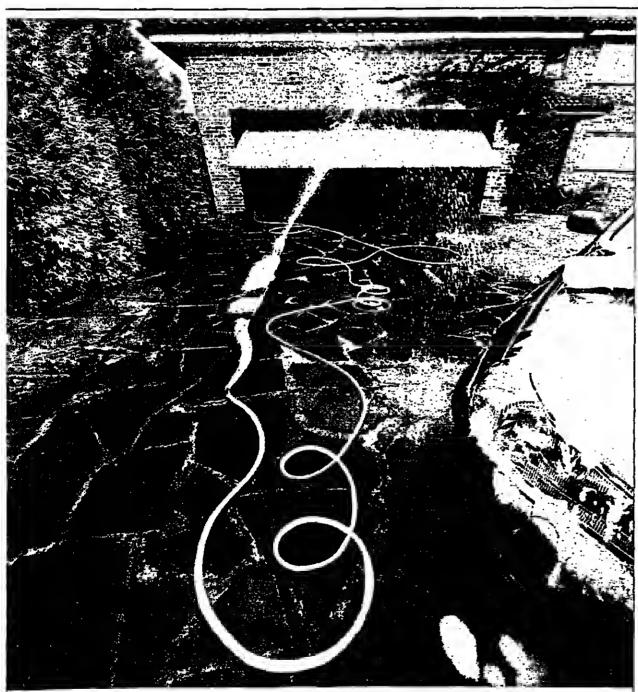
review after allegations were made by most powerful opposition leader and the Jakarta city authorities that the a potential future president of the

world's fourth largest country. "What we will do is review whether the deals were approved without fair Susilo, an official of Mr Rais's Muslim organisation, Muhammadiyah. "If they were, then we'll have to cancel them and retender. But we doo't corruption with Mr Suharto,"

The news will bring partial relief to British firms in Indoocsia, many of whom are in business with members of the disgraced family. Last year, the Uoited Kingdom was the biggest foreign investor in Indonesia: apart from Thames and Trafalgar House, PowerGen, Rio Tinto, BP, Rolls Royce, Taylor Woodrow, the Bank of Scotland and United Biscuits all have Suharto connections. Next week, the

minister of investment, Hamzah Haz, will announce the review of nine projects agreed by Mr Suharto during his last months in power, which will almost certainly be suspended.

Mr Rais is also pressing for an investigation into the Suharto family fortunes. Yesterday, the former president's balf-brother Probosutedio, a banker and businessmao, was quoted as saying that the family had no objection to an investigation.



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By Mary Braid ın Nakuru

BLOODY clashes between the Pokot and Marakwet peoples in Kenya's breathtakingly beautiful Rift Valley are being officially portrayed as tribal skirmishes over cattle rustling.

But Kenyan opposition groups claim that, once again, tribal differences are being exploited, and ethnic conflicts engineered, by the government enf Daniel arap Moi in a clandestine campaign to keep him in power.

Human rights groups have warned ibai President Moi, and his cronies in the ruling Kenya African National Union (Kanu), risk plunging Kenya into civil war in their determination to bold on to power, amid increasing opposition to the corrupt regime from outside and, increasingly, inside the ruling party.

Since the beginning of the year, violence has broken out in several districts of the Rift Valley, Mr Moi's home area and traditional support base, From Vanuary to April the Kalenjins, Mr Moi's tribe, and the Kikuyu, Kenya's largest tribe, repeatedly did battle. Guns and bows with poisoned arrows claimed more than 100 lives, mainly Kikuyu; the livers of some victims were apparently cut out to make ponons to give warriors courage.

Thousands of relatively affluent Kikuyu farmers were displaced. They, and some Kalenjins victimised in subsequent revenge attacks, have been forced into towns, temporary accommodation and, if they are lucky, low-paying me-mal jobs.

Opposition groups talk of a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" designed to flush out opposition voters and keep the Rift Valley rock solid in its support for Mr Moi. The violence, they claim, was the Kikuyus' punishment for failing to support Mr Moi, who has ruled the former British colony since 1978, in elections at the end of last year.

Ernest Murimi, of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, in Nakuru, where the clashes between the Kiknyu



A Kikuyu tribesman raising his fist in anger as he carried the coffin at a funeral service in Sipili yesterday of one of the 19 people killed in ethnic violence

that the Pokot-Marakwet clashes are also being orchestrated by government to discourage the opposition which is making gains in an area where Kanu's national splits are being replicated locally. The Pokot were faithful to Moi last December. while many Marakwets desert-

While the violence intimidates the opposition, it also serves the government by apparently supporting Mr Moi's warnings that multi-party democracy in Kenya is bound to lead to ethnic division.

ipated in the Nakuru clashes members of the crowd and intold him they were trained for combat by an MP close to Mr

Moi. "Third force" theories were boosted this year when a man killed in clashes was later discovered to be a policeman in civilian clothes. Maina Kiai, executive director of the Kenya Human Rights Commission, claims security force members have been used to stoke violence and to break np political meetings.

Opposition rallies in West Pokot to discuss the violence, have been disrupted twice this Mr Murimi claims that month. On 9 May, police broke sons were given. Mwai Kibaki, Moi's own party. On Thursday, and Kalenjins took place, claims Kalenjin youths who partie- up a meeting, beating up many the official parliamentary op- a day after Mr Kirwa's dis- at which finance minister Sime-

Armed supporters of Kanu attacked and broke up a second rally held last weekend, being addressed by 30 rebel Kanu and opposition MPs. When one of the 30 armed raiders was later cornered and killed by the angry crowd, uniformed police in 1992. looked on and did nothing.

juring 10 MPs.

Among the Kanu contingent at the rally was Kipruto arap Kirwa, a outspoken junior minister in Mr Moi's government. He was dismissed from office on Wednesday. No rea-

position leader, who is chalmissal, 42 Kanu and opposition lenging Mr Moi's win in the Demembers suspended their parcember elections in court, also ticipation in constitutional readdressed the rally. form in protest at the break up

en any action."

The opposition believes the of opposition rallies. violence is Mr Moi's surreptitious response to the multiparty elections forced npon him by the international community

Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and Article 19 warned that Kenya might be on the brink of civil war because of the government's failure to tackle the violence. But disquiet has now spread to Mr on Nyachae admitted the gov ernment was broke and corruption still rampant.

Around Nakuru some of those displaced by fighting are being resettled on land bought Mr Kirwa said the MPs were by the Catholic Church. "perturbed that agents of the

Mr Kiai says that Moi is playgovernment had continued to ing a dangerous game; for he flout the law ... with impunity and the government has not takmay yet unleash forces that cannot be controlled. "The Kanu's rank and file are state is using non-state actors growing ever more restless. to do its dirty work and there Last month, 82 Kanu members, is potential for much more viincluding Mr Kirwa, took the exolence," he says of the "uneasy traordinary step of defying Moi peace" currently reigning beto attend a conference on tween the Kalenjins and Kenya's collapsing economy, Kikuyus. "People are rearming. The language is one of war."

Yeltsin sacks his tax chief

BORIS YELTSIN sacked his top tax man. His cabinet announced a package of plans. And Westem banks worked round the clock to make sure they could rescue Russia if it eventually goes

over the precipice. So it was that a confidencebuilding drive unfolded yesterday to save Russia from a rouble collapse that would destroy the limited achievements of market reform and deepen the risk of political instability in a heavily armed country.

As Mr Yeltsin launched a fight-back after Wednesday's market tumble - applauded from the sidelines by President Bill Clinton and his old friend. the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl - the International Monetary Fund finally signalled it would approve the next \$670m (£410m) tranche of a \$9.2bn loan to Moscow, even though Russia will have to wait to the end of June to get the money.

Mr Yeltsin began the day by announcing he bad fired Alexander Pochinek, head of the tax service, replacing him with the former finance minister, Boris Fyodorov. The move was intended to appease the IMF, which has been demanding that Russia squeeze more tax from an economy which is short of mubles, run by a business community riddled with corruption and employs a population for whom taxes are still largely an alien concept.

The new government of Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko joined the battle. As the markets steadied the cabinet issued a statement promising to carry through Mr Yeltsin's plans to cut budget expenditures by \$7bn this year; to accelerate the privatisation of state companies; and to squeeze nearly \$1bn from 20 of the worst corporate tax debtors.

Underlying this financial squall is the fear that the rouble will collapse, causing byperinflation and even deeper discontent in a population exhausted by nearly a decade of economic decline.

Armed thugs raise fear of 'brown army'

By Imre Karacs in Bonn

Hour

nen!!

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POLICE in eastern Germany have launched an investigation into reports that a small neo-Nazi group has obtained firearms. According to a German television report, the hitherto showed off their wares, threat-ball bals. But the authorities are the ultimate nightmare of pounknown Mecklenburg-Pom- ening to turn the guns on "the increasingly concerned at the lice forces in the region.

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erania Squad has managed to enemies of our people, rapists potential of neo-Nazi terror. kit itself out with Czech and and "criminal foreigners". Ukrainian weapons, including

pistols and machineguns.

Until now, none of the numerous splinter groups on the The group is believed to neo-Nazi scene have been able East Germany. A "brnwn consist of 20 people. Inter- to arm themselves with anything viewed on camera, its members more sophisticated than base-

The borderline between skinhead and neo-Nazi gangs is eroding, especially in the former army"- a link-up between the thugs and the ideologues - is

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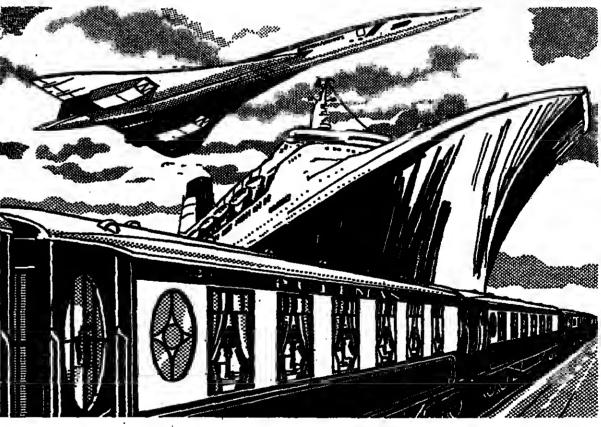
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Mississippi Klansmen finally brought to book for murder 30 years ago

By Andrew Marshall in Washington

IMAGINE a state where a group of people are segregated, stripped of their political rights, brutally subdued. Imagioe that the government of this state runs its own secretive intelligence agency to keep tabs oo those who want to rock the boat. an agency that has hundreds of ageots spying on their friends and families. Imagine that this agency connives at murder with a terrorist organisation.

This is not South Africa in the apartheid years, where the sinister "Third Force" was used to maintain order. This is Mississippi in 1966, the year that civil rights leader Vernon Dahmer was murdered. The men who are alleged to have carried out that killing are at last being hrought before a court that will try them properly.

But the price, for Mississippi and for many other Americans, is a long look into a dark period of history that is still desperately painful.

Vernon Dahmer, 58, was president of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. He had fought hard for the rights of black people in Mississippi, and he knew he had many enemies. His friend Medgar Evers had been murdered in 1963, and Mr Dahmer had sat up all night, waiting to see if they would come for him. He and his wife slept io shifts, a shotgun by the bed.

But for the white supremacists, Mr Dahmer crossed the line in January 1966. He announced in Shady Grove Baptist Church that black people could pay the \$2 poll tax at his grocery store, allowing them to vote. It was, for the racists, too much. That night, they came for him, two car loads of meo with guns and fire-bombs. He and his wife were wokeo by gunfire, and the smell of burning as Molotov cocktails were thrown into

While Mr Dahmer returned

smoke inhalation, "Vernon jumped up and grabbed a gun and yelled, 'Jewell, get the children out while I hold them off," said his wife. "They were shooting at us, and he was shooting back through the doors and windows. He sacrificed his life so that we could get out."

Eighteen men were indicted, 10 were tried, and only four were convicted. But oo Thursday, 32 years later, three elderly

a corrupt and racist legal system,

Four years ago, justice started to catch up. Byron De La Beckwith was coovicted of the murder of Medgar Evers, a landmark event in the South.

Bowers, a former Imperial family to renew their fight for heard Bowers and another suspect, Deavours Nix, discussing cussed rigging the jury with an FB1 informant. The result was the arrest of Bowers, oow 73. who had served time for the murder of three other civil

> For lawyers, the trial of Bowers - as the trial of Beckwith -

are entitled to a speedy trial and South. due process; both are in doubt when the crime was so long ago, and with much evidence "lost".

But, what about Mr Dahmer and his family? "They are old oow, but that doesn't matter to us. There is oo statute of limitations on murder, and as far as we are concerned, that applies to age," says Mr Dahmer's son, Vernoo Jr.

And what about all the oth-

raises disturbing legal aspects. solved murders from Mississippi Under the Constitution, they alone, among 40 or 50 in the Perhaps the most disturbing

of state repressioo that was

Much of the evidence for the case will come from the files of the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission, a state body that collected intelligence oo those fighting segregation and gave it to employers, the police and others; perhaps including the Ku Klux Klan. Citizens earned

IN BRIEF

Genocide is recognised

THE French parliament, in a vote which drew condemoation from Turkey and praise from Armenia, passed a Bill yesterday recognising the 1915 killings of Armenians by Turks as geoocide.

Turkey had warned that relations with France would suffer and asked the Socialist-led government to intervene to stop the Bill France has one of the largest Armenian communities in Europe - 300,000 strong - most of whom are descendants of survivors of the 1915 killings, in which, they say, 1.5 million of their compatriots died.

- Reuters, Paris

Mugabe riot POLICE fired tear gas and used riot sticks yesterday to disperse hundreds of students demonstrating against Presideot Robert Mugabe's rule.

About 2,000 students blockaded Zimbabwe's Parliament for the second day, calling for Mr Mugabe and corrupt politicians to follow the example of Indonesian Presideot Suharto and relinquish power. - AP, Harare

\$100 baby

AN unemployed truck driver, Kenneth M Vogelpohl, in Maryland, has been convicted of selling his infant soo to the boy's former foster pareots for \$100 and a used car. Vogelpohl, 38, said that he and his girlfrieod, an unemployed waitress, only wanted a better life for themselves and the. child. He faces up to 10 years in jail and a \$20,000 fine.

Red-light ban

SWEDEN's parliament yesterday outlawed the purchase of sexual services. The ban was the most controversial element of a Bill widening protection against sexual abuse of women. It does not outlaw prostitutes, but the purchase of their services; the maximum penalty will be six mooths in --- AP, Stockholm

men were led from their homes to face justice. Foremost amongst them is fire, his family escaped. But Mr the alleged mastermind, Sam Cork&Kerry

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SWANSEA CORK FERRIES

Grand Wizard of the White justice. Last year, a witness Knights, one of the most mur- came forward to say he had derous of the groups that haunted the dark nights of Mississippi. Mr Bowers had the murder of Mr Dahmer. faced trial four times for Dah- Another key piece of informamer's murder, but the juries tion was that Bowers had disdeadlocked each time. In those days, with all-white juries and justice was in short supply.

That convinced the Dahmer

and avail of the great value

rights workers, and the arrest of Charles Noble. 55, and Deavours Nix, 72.

Viagra blamed for

ers killed during those bloody years? The Southern Poverty Law Centre counts 15 unre-

aspect of the case, for the oation as a whole, is that it means looking anew at the machinery

constructed in the racist South.

Mississippi is facing the same ugly truths.

come later.

Sam Bowers (top), is to

face his fifth trial for the

1966 killing of civil rights

(above), who died after an

\$100-150 for a up. Some civil

rights workers informed oo

each other. The files revealed

that the commission screened

jurors in Beckwith's trials, and

gone through the agony of re-

living the past like this. South

Africa, Argentica and Ger-

many have all had to face the

truth: that people collaborated

with state organisations dedi-

cated to repression and murder,

and that justice could only

Many other nations have

more is likely to come out.

Photographs: AP

leader Vernon Dahmer

armed raid at his home

Barry Goldwater, hero of America's right, dies at 89

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VIAGRA, the "magic bullet" for impotent men, is now being blamed for blasting a hole through an American couple's 10-year marriage. Francis Bernardo, 70, took

Viagra and found his libido so restored that he abandoned his 61-year-old partner only two days later for a younger woman. Now Roberta Burke is suing the construction executive for \$2m (£).25m); she is also contemplating suing Pfizer, the company that makes Viagra, for not warning the public that this

drug can endanger happy mar-

Island, New York State, will be the first palimony suit linked to Viagra, which went on the market last month.

Mr Bernardo obtained a prescription for Viagra on 1 May to cure the impotency he suffered from 1994. Ms Burke said two days later the couple had sex - for the first time in four years. But this story had no happy ending. Two days after that he left her. Ms Burke said his parting shot was: "It's time for me to be a stud again." Ms Burke still wants her rejuvenated partner back. As for the drug? "She believes Viagra should be given out with emotional counselling."

By Andrew Marshall in Washington

BARRY GOLDWATER, the standard-bearer of America's libertariao conservative right, died yesterday, aged 89.

He died at his home in Phoenix, Arizona. He had been ill for some time, suffering a stroke in 1996. Last year he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. A family spokesman quoted the politician's widow as saying: "He is soaring through the skies - what a pilot he has been". Goldwater, former Senator from Arizona, had also

been an Air Force pilot. President Bill Clinton, po-

litically very distant from the right-wing Republican, said he was "truly an American original," adding: "I never knew anybody quite like him".

In recent years Goldwater lambasted the Whitewater investigation, said he had oo problems with gays in the military, and argued that the state had no role in deciding on

But that was not how he made his name. Goldwater stood against Nelson Rockefeller for the Republican presidential nomination in 1964, repudiating the party's older, moderate reputation and staking out a distinctive conserva-

tive position. He lost to Lyndon B Johnson, and was painted as a right-wing fanatic. "Extremism in defence of liberty is no

vice!," he told Republicans. Goldwater had no time for many of those who followed him in the Republican party, excoriating George Bush, Newt Gingrich, Jesse Helms and Ronald Reagan. But he was always a demooic figure for the left of his party and the Democrats, who regarded him as a warmonger. The slogan of Goldwater's supporters was: "In your hearts you know he's right." His opponents countered: "In your guts, you know he's nats.

Obituaries, page 24



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Thomas or Put 21so The Butte who weredeath the Distance War age the And with the company The later mark where by the Arms main Fa de Hart to with the Of tag set in the cape. hydrag in the war-Pining Padre Re Method and during

(apart from sex scandals, of course)



The presence of women in the ranks has not dispelled the image of a sexist and racist organisation

Photograph: Richard Baker/Katz/IPG

SEXUAL barassment hearings are not usually the kind of thing that you need to dress up for. Certainly, the question of have been all my life," the capa hat oever crossed my mind. tain testified,) But, theo again, I had never - much posher than your average tribunal. For starters, it is are more medals oo show than a Sotheby's auction. It also

headdress, as they are called. Most of the witnesses at the ly wearing ooe last week at the are called) which vibrated as the refused to speak oo the record. soldiers marched into the lightblue room and past the padre and his military escort.

Red-light by

r, hero of

dies at 89

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The state of

They then stopped to salute There the men were told to take off their headdresses and swear its image, and the third reoo need to replace the headdress yet," they were told.

No indeed. That moment would come later and they would duly be instructed. Such is the pomp of a court martial that you can see why they are so popular with the press. The British Army may not be what it used to be - smaller, poorer, fewer wars etc - but it really does put on an embarrassingly good sex case: Some of the stories are better than Hollywood.

Remember Lt-Col Keith Pople and his affair with Lt Cdr Karen Pearce, a naval officer? He gave her a vibrator known as the Pink Friend. Their sex life was fuelled by jump jets taking off above them. In the end he every roaring detail had been reported (with sound effects). Yesterday, the chaplain would have had an inkling of how Lt-Col Popie felt, when he was partially cleared of harassment charges before the hearing was

adjourned for the weekeod. Entertaining, yes, but also unsettling for civilians who wonder what exactly the military is to do in this post-Cold War age. Why, we ask, do peacekeeping and sexual harassment cases seem to be the Army's main activities? "What is it with the Army and sex?" said one observer, looking up from coverage of the 'Flirting Padre" ("Unfortunately, I am a flirt and

By Ann Treneman

But it is not only sex. There seeo the way the Army does it is also drugs and violence and general bad behaviour. Every week reveals another example. called a court martial and there A quick review of cases recently past or pending reveals a showcase of gang rape, assault, helps if you've got a hat - or a drugs, lesbianism etc. The military, it seems, is out of control.

They do not see things like court martial of Army chaplain that at the Ministry of Defence, Richard Landall were certain- of course. Nor do they see it that way in the ranks, "You've got to Aldershot Court Martial Cen-remember, the Army is another tre. Some headdresses even world," said one soldier who, like had plumes (or hackles as they almost everyone in the military,

But the Army has always been another world: the difference is that now it doesn't really know what its world is. The identity crisis is on several turned into the witness box. levels. The first, and most basic, coocerns its role. The second, an oath on the Bible. There is volves around its attempts to become more a part of our



Richard Landall: 'i am a flirt,' he confessed

world (and thus have more ethnic minorities and women, etc). All of these are interlinked, was acquitted, but oot before but key to it all is the role. No one worried much about this during the Cold War. Then came the clinically "clean" Gulf war, the mess of trying to keep the peace in Bosnia and the realisation, with the likes of Sierra Leone, that many military missions are pri-

vate affairs these days. So, what exactly is the Army for now? "We need to recognise what we are actually doing - and that is peacekeeping and humanitarian aid," says Major Eric Joyce, the author of a Fabian pamphlet on the future of the military who has upset his employer by being so outspoken.

The Army, however, sees itself as a high-intensity warfare

fessor of peace studies at Bradford University, says this is to be expected with a defence review due out within weeks. But he sees the modern British Army's role as something different: a highly mobile and versatile force that can make war

- and peace. Prof Rogers calls this "versatile power projectioo". "They oced to have troops who can engage in combat and also be peacekeepers," he says. "So they are trained to kill and then be able to adjust to sorting out villages at risk."

The Army, however, will not budge from "fighting machine" talk and that locks it into a way of thinking that is pure Army. Brigadier Robert Gordon explains. "Delivering fighting capability is based on three things: the brain, the muscle and the heart. The most important is the heart, the moral component, Every military thinker from Alexander to Napoleon to the present has understood this."

The moral component, evidently, is that bit of a soldier who will advance towards enemy fire when every cell in his body says that he should be going the other way. The Brigadier sees teamwork and high moral values as creating this spirit. He calls it "cohesion".

"This is why we take issues of team-building so seriously. Anything that starts to break up that cohesion or undermines it is detrimental to our capacity to . deliver our fighting capability. If you have dissension in the ranks because of, say, adultery, then the cohesion is being brokeo and your ability to deliver your fighting capability is undermined."

The rest of the world does not see the Army like this, however. I put it to the Brigadier that most people see the army as run by the upper classes and as having a culture that is both sexist and racist.

"I think that is stereotyping. but you are right - that is what people think. We ran 34 focus groups across the country and you are right, there are these perceptions of a socially stratfied army. Officers are seen as public school-boys and squaddies as sort of football hoobigan in uniform essentially. But this is not the real Army anymore."

Some people in the real Army, however, do not agree. Major Eric Joyce talks of "hard-

sees class as the main culprit. "It all extends from the norms that dominate the army. They are misogynistic, racist etc. That is part of the culture in the upper and upper-middle classes."

The spark for recruiting more ethnic minorities and women came from the outside - mainly from European legis- a 24-hour helpline and a "halation - and they have a long way rassmeot team". Some say this

sellers.

to go. For instance, all three services today have a grand total of 2,380 female officers compared with 30,295 male, In the ranks there are 12,450 womeo as compared with 165,700 men.

The Army is now playing catch up. It has put in place such things as "gender-free training",

is political correctness gone mad, others insist it is oot eoough. PR is not the Army's strong point (perhaps because it is carried out by soldiers whose ideas of spin have nothing to do with doctoring).

The Army, for instance, insists that the sexual harassment court martials seed out the right signals to recruits and

are taking a risk in terms of PR in exposing some of these cases. But we are determined to root out indiscipline and what we consider unacceptable behaviour," says the brigadier.

And this takes us back to Aldershot and the evidence given by some of the soldiers with hackles on their heads, One

soldiers. "We are aware that we has said that the padre had an "carthy" sense of humour and gives this example: "The padre asked me if I had any risque photographs to show him of my wife. I said no and he asked me if I wanted any. I laughed."

The hearing is expected to end early oext week. The identity crisis is expected to continue



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Lt-Col Keith Pople and Lt-Cdr Karen Pearce: Their affair became public property

A prize monster is our story of the year



Winner Nicola Muntzer

NICOLA MUNTZER, a 38-year-old mother of two, from west Sussex, is this year's £2,000 prize winner of The

Independent/Scholastic competition to write a short story for six-to-nine year-olds.

She wrote her short story, Toebiter, about a monster who lives under the bed of a little girl called Katie, while working as a cleaner during the week.

She said: "I've been writing for a while now. I've written two novels and a couple of short stories for children.

"I didn't get anywhere when I entered this competition last year, so I was amazed when Scholastic called. I actually thought it

was a man trying to sell me double-glazing! "My two daughters, who are six and eight, were really helpful when I was writing the story. Toebiter smells really awful and I

"It really made me laugh when they said burnt toast and packets of peanuts.

asked them what smells they hated.

THE INDEPENDENT Story of the Year 6

SCHOLASTIC

"I really enjoyed the writing, I felt a real freedom creating my own stories.

"I would definitely love to write more children's literature in the future, but I will always test the water by trying them out on my own girls first.

"My family are absolutely over the moon. Because it was just a hobby, winning a competition like this has somehow made my writing more authentic.

"I would advise anybody to have a go. If I can do something like this, and I've got no

background in this area, then anyone can." Geoffrey Henderson, 76, author of The Little King Who Broke Things, is one of our two runners-up, who both win £500 each.

His story is about a spoilt little prince who grows up to be a good king thanks to the court bootboy who helps him mend his

Mr Henderson said: "I'm probably the oldest person to enter this competition.

"I've done a lot of different things in my life. I've been a fighter pilot, a barrister and then a writer. I've got a novel on the go at the moment which a publisher is interested

"This story is based on problem children I've known, but as with all my work everyone turns out to be good in the end."

The other runner up is Fiona Gibson, 33, a freelance writer for women's magazines.

She wrote Uncle George's Magic Painting Set, the story of twin brothers who get fed

up with receiving identical birthday presents. She said: "I've been reading all my old children's books to my 15-month-old twins and I just thought it would be great to write something of my own.

"It has been really fun to do. There is a tremendous freedom just letting your imagination run wild and not answering to any commissioning editor."

The following stories will also be included in the Story of the Year 6 anthology to be published by Scholastic Children's Books in the autumn: Aisho and the Fish by Sara M Ebowe, The Black Cloggs of Castle Doom by Rosamund Annetts; Ella and the Egyptians by B.J.Weir, The Giant Sized Yuck by Simon Cheshire; Sisters, Not Twins by Jenny Hughes; Sticky Bun and the Sandwich Challenge by Janet Frances Smith, Snowy by John Nevison.

Nicole Veash

the

"Toebiter, toebiter, under my bed, if you bite me tonight, I'll kick off your head. You may try and hide, but I know you are there, So I'll pull off your ears and I'll tear out your hair.

"Toebuer, toebiter, don't you dare, show your teeth and give me a scare..."

"Katie Mactaren, stop talking to yourself and get into bed."

But Katle Maclaren wasn't talking to herself. She was talking to it - the unseen thing that lurked beneath her bed, the thing that had come to live in that dark, scary gap where the mattress ended and the floor began.

Nor could she suddenly break off halfway through this special warning curse or the toehiter would know she was scared of it. And the one thing you must never do is let a toehiter know you are scared. They feed on fear, along with tiny drops of blood from soft young human toes.

Karle shut her eyes tight, screwed ber hands up into two hard fists and gabbled the rest of the curse under her hreath.

if I feel your teeth sinking into my toes, I'll punch you hard on your very long nose. So there!" "Katie - bed - NOW!"

There was a rush of air as Katie leapt, a twang of protesting bed springs as she landed on the mattress, followed by a sob of relief. She had escaped. Beneath the bed she thought she beard the toebiter grinding his teeth in frustrated fury.

It was a small unpleasant sound rather like the rasping of two pennies rubbing together and it was replaced by a short, devilish chuckle. Katie's heart sank. She knew the toehiter might have missed her tonight, but it would get her tomorrow.

Most people can find something unexpected under their beds, even if it's only a wisp of fluff, a forgotten paper handy or a stray marble, but no one that Katie knew of bad anything even half as terrifying as a toehiter. The worst that any of her id found was a spider and you can get rid of spiders.

Toebiters are not so easy. They cling invisibly to the springs or the underside of the mattress like a headlouse clings to a shaft of hair. When threatened, they ooze silent between the cracks in the floorboards or they creep craftily into the doll's house and watch through the miniature windows until it is safe to come out.

So, naturally, when Katie told her parents about the toebiter and they moved her bed to Hoover underneath. there was no sign of anything nasty.

Never let a toebiter know you are scared.

They feed on fear, along with tiny drops of blood from soft young human toes

There!" They said triumphantly, switching the Hoover off. "That's got rid of the nasty gnome for

"It's not a gnome." "Gohlin then."

"lı's not a gobtin either."

"What is it then?" Kade's father was getting restless. There was a hig match on in five minutes and be wanted to be there, in front of the TV before it started.

"It's a tochiter," Katie explained. "A brown one." "Whatever it is," he said, pointing to the freshly-cleaned carpet, "It's gone now. See..."

Katie did see. It was obvious that grown-ups were pretty thick when it came to tochiters. They did not realise that toebiters are clever creatures and don't just lounge around waiting to be Hoovered up. The toebiter was so crafty that even Katie herself had never seen it. But she did not need to actually clap eyes on it to know what it looked like and the tochiter looked like nothing she had ever seen before.

Its body was small and hairy, but its head, mushrooming from a squat, wrinkled neck, was large, lumpy and hairless. It had no need of eyes, living as it did in dark, secret places so, where its eyes should have been there were only two horrible sightless mounds. Its nose, on the other hand, was highly developed. Sensitive and boncless, it probed and wiggled, homing in on human flesh as an earth-

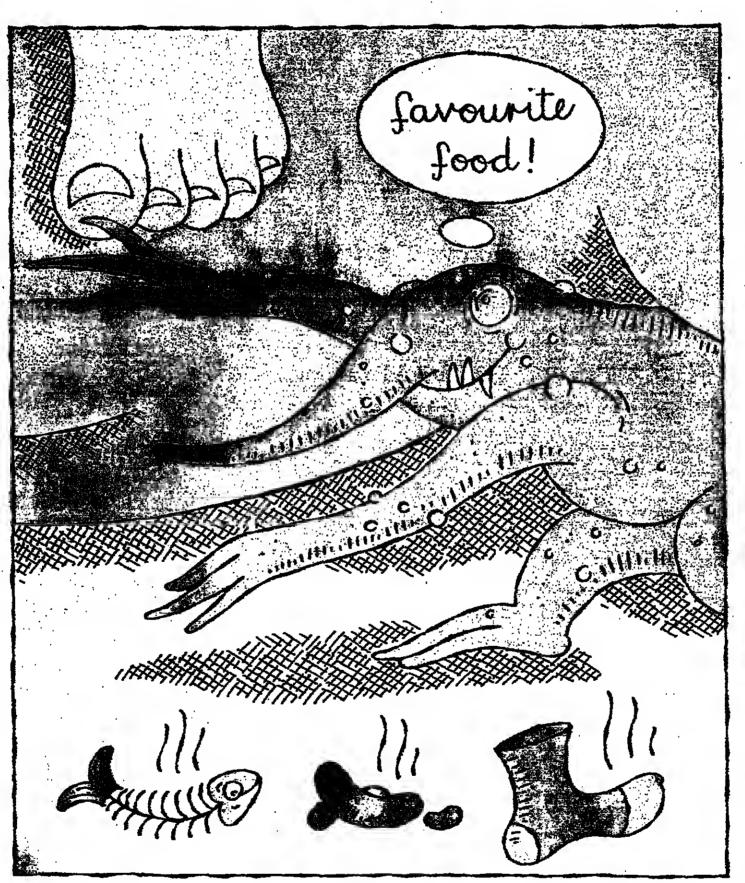
worm pushes hlindly through soil towards the light. And when human flesh was sniffed out the tochiter would pounce, using long rubbery arms to seize its prey and a mouth full of razor-sharp yellow teeth to draw blood.

But the worse thing about the toebiter, worse even than its worm-like nose or its tiny grasping claws or its brown, wizened body, was its smell.

Sometimes the smell wafting out from under so impressed with her story that he read it aloud Katie's bed was overpowering. It was a combinato the class. And, at play time, a boy called Nathan tion of all the most disgusting pongs imaginable

Toebiter

By Nicola Muntzer



Elustration: Sally Kindberg

- a freshly-opened packet of peanuts, burnt toast, blue cheese, cat poo, steaming nappies, brussels sprouts on the boil, kippers, week-old football socks

But the annoying thing was, only Katie seemed able to smell it. There had been a ray of hope one morning when her mother bad paused while tucking Katie's sheets in and sniffed suspiciously. "Phew. what's that stink?" She had demanded, rummag-

ing under Katie's bed. "Toebiter," said Katie. Toebiter, my foot." And Mrs Maclaren bad smiled, seized something lying under the bed and tossed it straight into the waste paper bin.

"If you must eat hananas in your room," she had continued, "at least throw the skin away afterwards." Katie had stared at her mother incredulously.

Couldn't she smell it? Couldn't she smell toebiter? Would no-one ever believe her? Then, one day at school, they had to write about the most frightening thing in the world. Katie, naturally, described the toebiter and the teacher was

Now, Nathan Spong was not known for his clever ideas. In fact, people made fun of him be-

he said, "I can get rid of it for you."

Spong came up to Katie. "This toebiter thing..."

cause his hair grew straight up from his scalp in a rather surprised way and because of his name-(there are several words that rhyme with Spong and none of them are nice) - but Katie was des-

"Can you really get rid of it?" She asked. "I think so." He paused "Do you want it captured alive?"

"No!" "Dead then." Nathan nodded. "In that case, we need to work out what likes to eat toebiters. Everything in the world bas a predator, something or somebody that likes to hunt it and eat it. I can't see a tochiter being any different. Unless... you

'No-o. I think it crawled up from the compost beap," Katic said.

don't think it comes from another planet or some-

"That's good. I'm not sure I can do aliens, Now, we need to know what a toebiter tastes like in

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order to work out what would want to eat it." Nathan took out a jotter and a pencil stuh and

looked expectantly at Katie.

"I'm not sure how it tastes." she said thoughtfully, "but it smells revolting - not like anything we'd want to eat anyway." Nathan made a note of this, then asked a few more questions - was it tame? Would it fit into a matchbox? Was it vicious? - and Katie answered as best she could until finally he put his pencil and jotter away.

"Leave it with me," he said mysteriously. "You ask me to tea on Wednesday and I'lt see what I can do... I like sausage and chips by the way."

And, on Wednesday, after school as promised, Nathan Spong turned up on Katie's doorstep clutching a shoebox under one arm and a small, dirty, white dog under the other.

"Gruhber can wait in the garden." Nathan said "while we're busy." But Grubber did not like being shut out in the garden and Katie heard him whining and scrahhling at the back door while she and Nathan climbed the stairs with the shocbox. She was not allowed to look inside this box.

"I do experiments," he told her darkly, "top se-

cret ones. This," he patted the box, "is highly con-

From her bed, Katie watched as, very slowly and carefully. Nathan loosened the lid of the shoebox. He pushed the box slowly towards the gap under the bed, turned it gingerly on to its side, gave it a tap, then leapt up on to the bed next to Katie. "What happens now?" she whispered. "We give it three-and-a-half minutes exactly," Nathan whispered back. "Then we see if it's worked."

Three-and-a-half minutes seems an eternity when you are waiting for something out of the ordinary to happen.

Katie watched the second hand crawl around the face of ber alarm clock - 20 seconds ... 30 seconds ... 35 seconds ... 40 ... one minute...

She peered over the edge of the bed at the upturned shoe box, watching and waiting with bated breath. She could bear her heart thumping. loudly and Nathan breathing beavily with concentration beside her... one minute passed... one minute and 30 seconds... 35 .: . 40 ...

From the kitchen downstairs came the muffled clatter of pots and pans as Mr Macaroon began preparing tea. Two minutes...

In the garden, Grubber had stopped whining and scrabbling and was whimpering quietly. There was no sound from either the box or the toebiter. Two minutes and 20 seconds... 30... 40...

"Time's up." Nathan's voice made Katie jump. "Ready?" She nodded. Together they took off their shoes and socks and lowered their bare feet over the edge of the bed until their toes were dangling: temptingly in the gap where the toebiter lurked. "I can smell it," Katie said fearfully. A reek of

rotten fish and cheesy socks seeped into the room. The gap beneath the bed remained ominously silent. A small breath of air tickled the soles of Katie's feet. She snatched them back up quickly to safety, but Nathan was more confident.

"Seems to have worked." He wiggled his toes yeowch!"

As he spoke, his whole body shot up into the air and landed back on the bed in a buddle. He turned white, then pink, then white again and there, on the second toe of his left foot was the distinct impression of two sharp little teeth. He rubbed at

the tiny marks with shock and disbelief. " It bit me," be said in surprise. "It actually bit me." Katie was about to reply that hiting toes was what toebiters actually did, when she heard a

They lowered their feet over the edge of the bed until their toes were dangling temptingly in the gap where the toebiter lurked

commotion downstairs. The kitchen door hurst open and, over a background noise of sizzling sausages, came a vell "Come back here you little..." from Katie's dad. This was followed directly by a sound like a herd of stampeding antelope galloping up the stairs and a very un-antelope like pant-

"Grubber." Nathan groaned "You were supposed to stay outside." But Grubber the dog had other ideas. Yelping with excitement, he charged towards the gap under Katie's bed.

Flat on his betly, he squirmed and wriggled untit almost all of his body had disappeared underneath the bed and only his tail, wagging furiously, remained visible.

Snap! Snap! His jaws met, missing their target. but on the third snap came a sickening, crunching, slurping noise and a single thin, high-pitched screech. Then nothing.

Katie looked at Nathan. Nathan looked at Katie. And Grubber, backing out from under the bed, glanced from one to the other, licking his lips and looking very pleased with himself. The dog sat for a moment, quite still, on the rug in front of them and, as he sat, a low rumble began deep in his belly. The rumble was no more, at first, than a distant growl, but, as it started to move, creeping upwards, it grew louder and louder, until by the time it was vibrating in Grubber's throat, it had become thunderous. Katie and Nathan stared at him, transfixed. Grubber closed his eyes, opened his mouth and let out an enormous... BELCH!

The smell that escaped with the enormous belch was absolutely atrocious – a combination of freshly-opened packets of peanuts, burnt toast, hive cheese, cat poo, steaming nappies, brussels sprouts on the boil, kippers, week-old football socks, and hreath of dog - atrocious but instantly recognisable. Toehiter.

A species, now, thanks to a small, dirty, white dog named Grubber, extinct.

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The unbelievable truth: they're not our Friends



Helen Baxendale (third from right) with the cast of 'Friends'. The Diana effect might explain why they cast her - or was it just her English accent?

America's favourite sitcom came to London – but its portrayal of the British was less than complimentary. By Gerard Gilbert

of Friends. Twice, in fact, because I couldn't quite believe it the first time round.

Okay, as Phoebe always begins when she's trying to explain her mental processes to the others; for those that don't know know what I'm on about - the cast of the popular American sitcom Friends were over in London in April filming a special hourlong episode. In it, Ross may or may not marry his British girlfriend, Emily, played by the English actress Helen Baxendale.

Filmed in a closed studio in Wembley, and on landmark tourist locations across the capital, the storyline will act as a cliffhanger for the next series. Will Ross marry Emily - or will he realise in time that he really loves Rachel? Several endings were apparently recorded.

Phoebe? Ross? Rachel? If you still don't know what I'm on about, turn the page. You will have been entirely ignorant of the media buzz that was around earlier this spring when the world's most shiney, happy sitcom played Cool Britannia a huge

compliment and alighted in London. Fergie has a bit part, as has Richard Branson. Two of Britain's most Americaconscious celebs understood the momentousness of the occasion. Rachel even flies

over here on Virgin. Fly the flag. Should Cool Britannia be flattered? On the evidence of the episode, which goes out on Sky One tomorrow evening (and on

I'VE JUST watched the London episode Channel 4 later in the year), the answer is it has to be said, are a little mixed. British no. In fact, get ready for a slap in the face.

Despite a riff from The Clash's London's Calling (which, let's face it, is now 18-yearsold) Cool Britannia might as well not exist. Brits are portrayed as fusty, snobby, avaricious and just plain dotty. And, over half a century after Lend-Lease and Marshall Aid, we're still trying to rip off the Yanks.

Tom Conti, who plays Emily's dad, dodders around calling people "old boy" (has anyone said that since the Fifties?). Jennifer Saunders, as Conti's wife, reprises her Edina Monsoon from Absolutely Fabulous. In fact June Whitfield's participation, as Saunders' housekeeper, makes one realise that Ab Fab is the current model of Britishness playing across the Atlantic. No wonder they don't seem to like us.

And they don't, if we are to believe the Friends script-writers, who know a thing or two about universal truths (the sitcom sells throughout the world). Joey is the only Friend who whole-heartedly embraces the visit. He annoys the others with his enthusiasm, buys a cheesy Union Flag hat (from Richard Branson's vendor of tourist tat) and humps into Fergie in Parliament Square (as you do). But even Joey is pining for New York after a couple of days. He misses pizza (as if you can't get it here) and good old honest home cooking, after being offered canapés of goat's cheese, watercress and pancetta. Some of the signals,

cooking as over-sophisticated? Terence Conran must be tearing his hair out.

Eventually Joey is persuaded to stay by an English girl who likes his Italian-New York accent (an amusing inversion of the usual "Oh I just love your English accent" line). But then that's one thing the English are popular for - their young women. English girls are class. After all, that's why

'Ab Fab' is the current model of Britishness playing across the Atlantic. No wonder they don't like us

they cast Helen Baxendale in the first place. Maybe it's the Diana effect.

The climax of this low level anti-British-. ness comes in an exchange between Tom Conti - who is trying to screw his daughter's prospective in-laws for the cost of half the wedding and as many extras as he can - and Ross and Monica's father, played by Elliot Gould. "That's enough from you,"

says Gould to Conti, "you thieving, wouldbe-speaking-German-if-it-wasn't-for-us littie man."

There, they've said it. We'd all he speaking German now if it wasn't for them. Maybe critics of Tony Blair's Cool Britannia export drive are being too harsh. If the hip, young writers of Friends can still express prejudices rooted in the Second World War, maybe we do need an image update.

Watching the episode for the second time, something became apparent. It was how drah all the English seem, and how screwed up their accents are. Actors as experienced as Tom Conti and Helen Baxendale all seemed to speaking in Hollywood cockney. Is this because there isn't another British accent that American audiences understand? Regular viewers of Channel 4 sitcoms will remember the Frasier episode in which Frasier's English home-help, Daphne (supposedly from Manchester) was visited by her English ex-boyfriend. He was also supposedly from Manchester, but spoke with a cockney accent that would have made Dick Van Dyke hlush.

But listen closer and you realise that they're not really speaking cod cockney at all. It's just the horrible, muffled sound of British actors trying to speak the lines of an American sitcom writer. Even Hugh Laurie - that epitome of a certain Oxbridge sense of humour, sounds like he's playing an improvisation game with Clive Anderson. Try to talk without any cadences whatsocver; pretend you're a speak-your-weight machine in need of Prozac. Laurie, as fellow airline passenger, gets to share a scene with Jennifer Aniston, that most expressive of comedy actresses. The contrast is painful. Oh well, the studio audience seem to find him funny enough.

The fact is that English and American sitcoms are like Rangers and Celtic supporters who find themselves in the same puh - they don't mix and shouldn't be encouraged to. Remember that embarrassing Roseanne episode when Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley guest starred? (admittedly Roseanne was fast disappearing up its own fundament at the time). And John Cleese may have made one of the greatest British sitcoms of all time, but that is no excuse for him to keep clogging up great American sitcoms like Cheers and Third Rock from the Sun with his guest appearances.

Friends is loathed by a certain sort of critic. The characters are too bouncy, too huggy, too American. I'm a fan; it passes the only criterion that I have for comedy: it's funny. And the characters have the sort of comic timing which most British comedy actors only possess in their dreams. The hits in the London episode when the Ross, Rachel, Chandler, Monica and Phoebe are doing their shtick are excellent. But let's get it back to New York. Ross, for goodness sake, don't say "I do".

ARTS DIARY DAVID LISTER

had a surreal evening on Thursday when I was among 30 or so invitees to the Roundhouse in north London to watch an even more surreal performance. The Roundhouse has, of course, been closed for years. The former railway shed which was the scene of legendary rock and drugs concerts in the Sixties and Seventies no longer has any seats in it.

And so we sat on Thursday night in a row of green deckchairs to watch the inspirational actor, storyteller and comedian Ken Campbell and his cast performing parts of Macbeth in Wol Wantok (popular in the South Pacific), a language that Campbell wants the whole world to learn for the millennium. Mastering it takes about three days, be swears, and be gave a lecture on its semantics after the show.

There is certainly a simplicity and universality to it which could be educationally useful. Lady Macbeth's line "Come, you spirits that tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here" translated economically to "Satan take-um me handbag". Though as Campbell pointed out, "handbag" in Wol Wantok has a very earthy, sexual meaning which makes performances of The Importance of Being Earnest nigh-on impossible.

This world premiere and perhaps birth of a new world language is also the birth of the new Roundhouse, about to re-open at long last. The estimable Paul Blackman, once of the Battersea Arts Centre and recently producing TV in New York, has returned to London to be the Roundhouse director, and tells me it will once again host rock concerts, theatre and also film and TV studios and workshops. I would say in Wol Wantok that Paul is the very man to do it, but Ken Campbell tells me there is no verb "to be" in the universal language. It is philosophically redundant, making Hamlet's soliloguy as hard as The Importance of Being Earness.

was rather taken by a letter to the Sunday Times from a reader who wondered why that paper used asterisks for swear words except in its Culture section, where the words were spelled out in their full glory. Do readers of arts pages have stronger stomachs or just a purer aesthetic which objects to asterisks?

The conundrum is complicated by the Broadcasting Standards commission report last Wednesday which shows that viewers of arts programmes on television would prefer asterisks if Tracey Emin is appearing. The commission upheld a complaint by a viewer that Ms Emin "had breached acceptable standards". They were (presumably) not referring to her art hut her constant swearing and drunkenness in a Chan-

nel 4 debate on last year's Turner Prize. Channel 4 says: "She was by ber own admission rather drunk... Her forthright views had added spark to the discussion. She had used 'f*** several times but not in a manner or a frequency which would have caused widespread offence to

viewers of this late-night programme." In other words, it's the way you tell em. Tracey should be plied with drink and given ber own programme to offer a demonstration of how and how often to use four-letter words without upsetting anyone. The resulting video could be her next conceptual work.

There was something pretty distasteful in the young Lennons sounding off this week against dad John. Julian, whose surname hasn't hindered him in getting a record deal, complained that the late Beatle didn't practise at home the peace and love he preached in public. Sean, whose surname etc. complained bizarrely that John was an adulterer. (Had be not been. Sean would never have been born). Surprise, surprise... both the junior Lennons have an album to promote, and Dad continues to make good copy, especially when being attacked by his progeny.

But isn't it an astonishing coincidence that both should be releasing albums at exactly the same time? I hesitate to suggest that their record companiesencouraged family attacks as the best form of promotion. But I do marvel at the part played by coincidence in the music in-

Company of the second THE WEEK IN RADIO ROBERT HANKS

IT'S about time we made our minds up about guilt. Not so long ago guilt was a desperately whealthy emerican, something we had to putte outselves of so that we could five happy, untroubled lives. But in the past few years gualt has become sentiment recopie have to embrace, with the proposition of the first the proposition of the first that the proposition of the proposition of

a generalised unease, often connected with sex and having little if any basis in actual wrongdoing, the second, the sort we want people to acknowledge, is all to do with aduniting specific actions and recognizing that they were bad. in not so sure that you can draw a clear line between the two varieties, though. In an ex-

guilt: the first, anhealthy sort is

cellent edition of the develop-

(World Service, Tuesday), the moral philosopher Peter Singer set out his views on the relationship between the devel-

At bottom, his argument is very simple: not to save a life is as bad as actively ending one - although without the same level of malevolence involved. So if you spend money unnecessarily when you could donate it to save lives in the developing world, you are not much better than a murderer.

Put this bluntly, his argument seems pretty well unanswerable. Certainly Zina Rohan, despite pressing him hard on a number of objections, failed to find any substantial holes. Most of these

ment magazine One Planet he put down as making excuses, and I have to say, he's probably right. We really ought to give more, do more, think less of ourselves.

There are two objections she didn't raise which are worth mentioning. The first is that Singer's argument is all about money: but really, shouldn't he go further - shouldn't everybody in non-essential trades (including philosophers and iournalists) retrain as nurses. agriculturalists, hydraulic engineers and so forth, so that they can offer their skills to the developing world? The second is the question of whether aid does any good: serious neople have suggested that in the long term, aid's effects are negative.

In the end, though, the only answer to Singer is Johnson's Defence - that's Paul rather than Samuel: we are all sinners. We know it's wrong to waste money on buying booze and fishnet stockings, driving flash caus and collecting matchboxes from around the world, hut we'd rather just live with the guilt. Now, which sort of guilt is that - the good or the bad?

On Private Passions (Radio 3, Saturday), Michael Berkeley's guest was Frances Partridge, last survivor of the Bloomsbury group. One of the pieces of music she chose was the fugue from Beethoven's C minor quartet - she felt that this piece of music asks a question about the nature of the universe. Bloomsbury? Music? The nature of the universe? Aren't all these frivolities when there are lives to be saved? Now I feel guilty I even listened.

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Weeding out the dangerous doctors

THEY DID NOT try to sleep with their patients; they were not drunks: they did not have a drugs problem. It is a pity, though, that Dr Wisheart and Dr Dhasmana did not indulge in any of these classic types of professional misconduct. Had they done so, the chances are that they would have been quickly caught, taken through some well-tried disciplinary machinery and been struck off before they could do any more damage. As it was these two doctors were merely incompetent rather than venal, an equally dangerous condition from the point of view of their patients. And, as men who were simply not up to it, there was little or nothing anyone could do about their hideously bungled attempts to ascend the "learning curve"

There should be no doubt that Wisheart and Dhasmana were attempting to work at a level far beyond their competence. Out of 53 babies operated on between 1988 and 1995, 29 died and four suffered serious brain damage. What makes this case so important is that it places a vital piece of common sense right at the centre of our understanding of the medical profession - that the competence of doctors to carry out their jobs varies just as much as it does in every other occupation. It is a commonplace that there are good and bad teachers, taxi drivers and plumbers; it is, rightly, no longer taboo to say so about doctors (whose mistakes can cost us a little more dearly than most).

So, if some doctors are so bad that they should not really be in practice, what can be done to ease them out? The answer, according to bodies like the Royal College of Surgeons is to introduce something called a General Performance Review Procedure. The idea is that the mortality and recovery rates of the patients under a given professional's care will be monitored. It is, of course, a concept that is capable of macabre distortion. A doctor could have a high mortality rate simply because he has been treating patients, say, in a very poor area with traditionally high incidence of beart disease. Such performance indicators, like those that have been introduced in education, must be treated with caution. But we should glance again at the Bristot case to realise their potential usefulness - the mortality rate of Mr Wisheart's adult patients was running at four times that of other surgeons,

The medical colleges have demonstrated, by their introduction of greater professional scrutiny, a willingness to address public concerns about the regulation of the various medical disciplines. They must make their new procedures stick and develop a habit of openness with patients if they do want to restore confidence and avoid an even more intrusive and less understanding intervention on hehalf of those they treat.

Shoppers deserve a fairer deal

THE NAMES of Karel van Miert and John Bridgeman ought to be on the lips of every consumer beading for the shopping centre this morning. Sadly, it would be surprising if one person in a supermarket car park could identify either the European competition commissioner or the directorgeocral of the Office of Fair Trading. It was Mr Bridgeman who told Le Coq Sportif last month to stop fixing the price of its £40 football shirts. "I will oot tolerate attempts at price-fixing," he thundered. Quite right. It is illegal for manufacturers to bassle shops which sell their goods at discount prices, or to refuse to supply them. But it happens all the time. Businesses simply refuse to see anti-competitive bebaviour as malign. "We broke the law, but commercially I don't see anything wrong with charging a



proper price for a highly sought-after hrand name," said a spokesman for Le Coq. And the law is notoriously difficult to enforce. Recently, Tesco has seemed rather better at the job than Mr Bridgeman. It sells the Umbro England football shirt, recommended retail price £45, for £33, at which Umbro has taken Umbrage. As we reported yesterday, Tesco is also being sued by Tommy Hilfiger, an American fashion label, which alleges the goods being sold cheapty in the supermarket are fakes. The case should be thrown out and Hilliger forced to supply its goods direct.

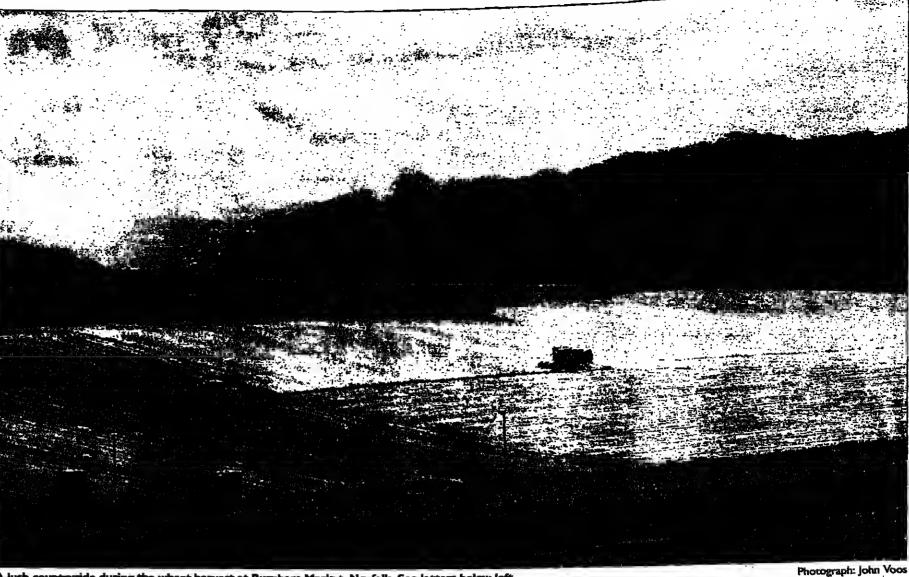
It is possible to argue that anyone prepared to pay silly prices for fashionable labels or football insignia deserves to be fleeced for all they are worth. Possible, but dangerous. Because price-fixing is not timited to high fashion. Tesco sells a range of electrical goods for less than the recommended retail price. CDs, hi-fis and computers are all overpriced. Above all, British cars and motorbikes are notoriously more expensive than on the Continent - still, a quarter of a century after we joined the Common Market.

Mr Bridgeman and Mr van Miert have failed the public; they should be much lougher. Price-fixing is against the law and the law should be enforced rigorously. To the extent that our "trustbusters" need new powers, some are on the way - fines of up to a tenth of a company's turnover. But the politicians should also give them the power to act quickly - speed is of the essence, so they can swoop on any malpractice and order immediate actioo. Until the consumer knows who the trustbusters are and can summon them, like superheroes, to the scene of any infraction, our protection against monopolists remains scant.

Shock to the new

THE LIFE cycle of the enfant terrible is getting shorter. Time was when the shock of the new could see you right for at least a decade of media attention. Patrons and the media both got a thrill from being outraged and their gratitude was as tangible and reliable as it was perverse. For the likes of Damien Hirst and his visceral animals, coverage, and a living, were not a problem.

But times change and the enfants now find themselves eminences with no intervening period whatever. Still in their thirties, they are being ousted by the so-called New Neuroties, who are embraced by the Saatchis and rely more on traditional influences such as Vermeer and Poussin than the abattoir. We are told that cynicism is passe and the art star a bore. Given the brevity of their predecessors' reigns, the new favourites have plenty to be neurotic about.



A jush countryside during the wheat harvest at Burnham Market, Norfolk. See letters below left

Farmers fight back

(leading article, 28 May).

Sir: You display complete insensitivity

to the plight of farmers and their im-

portant role in a nation increasing-

y dominated by urban values

I suspect that if the writer, from

a low base, had suffered a 46 per cent

decrease in income, he or she would

be "bleating like a spring lamb", es-

pecially if the fall had nothing what-

Anyone who imagines that the

wish more than to be allowed to com-

pete on fair terms in world markets,

Britain is beautifully farmed, lush, green, and productive. Without

farmers there would be no country-

side as we wish it, and to suggest trees

tive uses means nothing less than its

Think seriously before you con-

demn this "interest group" to the

scrap heap. To imagine that "towns-

people are more solicitous" of our

countryside than those who live and

work there and wbo are the tradi-

tional keepers of our pastoral ber-

itage is a misconception for which our

Sir: There was a time when I would

have been upset by your teading ar-

ticle, but times have changed, and I

Farming has for decades been

claiming to be an "industry"; farms

have, for the most part, become fac-

tories; animals are at best a "crop".

The farmers, led by the NFU, bave

sided with profiteers, even when it

has involved huge animal suffering.

as in the protests over live exports.

trialism, and alienated the public by

insisting on the lawfulness of sending

calves to crates and sheep on gruelling

journeys to barbaric slaughter (not to

mention feeding chicken to cows), the

farmers cannot be surprised when

they reap the whirlwind of public fury.

ferently from other greedy industri-

alists, they will have to stop behaving

Sir: Your leading article was a bizarre

mix of misguided free-market pro-

paganda and gloating over the

demise of yet another British way of

A free-for-all reduction in sup-

pliers inevitably leads to controlled

markets and higher prices. As smalt

farms die, aeribusiness takes over and

soon yet another industry will be en-

tirely in the hands of a tiny, all-pow-

Sir: To compare agriculture to any

other industry is impossible. Food is not a commodity in the same way

that electricity, cars or records (as you

suggest) are. Now, more than ever.

we need confidence in our food; that

means efficient regulation and trace-

ability of, where possible, home-pro-

It is true to say that farmers, faced

with new technology, have polluted

the environment, as have the chem-

ical, extraction and manufacturing in-

dustries. The intensification of

agriculture was in response to gov-

ernment and, latterly, EU policies.

If farmers want to be treated dif-

Having sown the wind of indus-

now have to agree with you.

descendants will not thank us.

but that option is denied to us.

soever to do with performance,

for a generation.

destruction.

PETER ASHLEY

Hertford

like them

erful élite.

TOM PEER

London SW11

Dr AMANDA VANCE

West Chiltington, West Sussex

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

However, the countryside (which according to you, has been "sprayed, chopped down and polluted") is proving a strong magnet for the urban populace. Perhaps we haven't been too barbaric.

demise of our home farming industry would lead to lower prices is liv-Agriculture is an export-led ining in cloud-cuckoo land, as a visit dustry and a significant positive Lord GILBERT to any supermarket proves, when farm-gate prices are at their lowest contributor to the balance of payments. So it is not the weather or some other "trivial" factor, but the ' Ministry of Defence We are ruled by Brussels, not the strength of sterling that is the source London SW1 market. There is nothing farmers

of the current turmoil. **MICHAEL STUBBS** Department of Agricultural Economics and Business

Wye College, University of London Wye, Kent

and housing as acceptable alterna-'Poisonous' Gulf shells

Sir. Robert Fisk reports ("The West's ously it would be wise to remember poisonous legacy", 28 May) that that human beings are diurnal. A the depleted uranium (DU) hased mass of research work shows that ammunitioo used by the UK and US people are considerably less efficient forces during the 1990-91 Gulf conflict is suspected of causing an increase in cancers among Iraqi children. Coming from anyone other than Robert Fisk, this proposition would be regarded as a wilful perversion of reality.

The beadline states that DU is DU has a number of applications in the civil sector: ranging from shielding against radiation in hospitals to counterbalance weights in yacht keels and aircraft. DU can constitute time of day or night. a significant health problem only if it has been inhaled in relatively large quantities. Its chemical toxicity, moreover, is similar to that of oth- Sir: The most insulting part of Roy er heavy metals such as lead. Again, this toxicity only becomes a hazard

to health if ingested. The only form in which DU can be ingested/inhaled is as one of the dust particles produced when a DU shell penetrates an extremely hard substance such as tank armour. These particles are extremely small and are rapidly dituted and dispersed by the weather into the environment. They become difficult to detect, even with the most sophistifurther than a few hundred metres

from the point of impact. With regard to the health concerns of Gulf veterans, none of those so far examined by the Medical Assessment Programme has displayed symptoms consistent with exposure to DU. As everyone knows, this government has, from its earliest days in office, been engaged in a full and open investigation of the possible causes of Gulf veterans' illnesses. The teams conducting epidemiological studies into the health of UK Gulf veterans and their fam-

ilies are, therefore, aware that DU is one of the many possible exposures during the Gulf conflict which have been put forward as a potential cause of Gulf-related illnesses and they will be taking this into account in their studies.

Minister of State for Defence Procurement

All-night NHS

Sir: Roy Lilley propounds the idea that 24-hour working would be the saving of the National Health Service ("Politicians won't admit it, hut closing hospitals is good for the NHS", 27 May).

Before this notion is taken seripeople are considerably less efficient Sir: Tom Lubbock does less than jusand effective working at night. Furthermore the chances of dying are greater at night then during daylight because most bodily functions are nocturnally slowed.

Thus if there were 24-hour working in those expensive bospitals. less efficient doctors and nurses treated as a hazard in the UK. In fact, would be dealing with more vulnerable patients - a poor formula for improving effectiveness. Human beings are neither computer chips nor Swiss watches that are immune to the Professor RAINER GOLDSMITH

Egginton, Derbyshire

Lilley's article was the statement that equipment and operating theatres re "the NHS's most valuable assets". The NHS's most valuable assets are its hardworking staff, who provide a 24-hour health service to the people of Britain. MARY GAWTHROP London SE5

Sir: Roy Lilley does not reveal whether he has ever discussed his idea with a surgeon or a consultant. Spincated monitoring equipment, no doctors may well want to work on us around the clock. I am not so sure about their medical counterparts. SEAN MACKEN Edgware, North London

What Nimbys forget

Sir: I am a divorced father of young children who live 200 miles away from where I live. I would live closer to them if work was available. I have a second home, the primary purpose of which is to ensure I bave good quality contact with my children.

To maintain and travel to and

from this home I am sacrificing my ability to huild up savings or a pension. I have to duplicate all the utilities I have in my London home. I also pay a second council tax, albeit at a reduced rate, but then, I do not make the same demands on local services that regular resideots do. Increasing the tax on my second home would put my ability to maintain it and to see my children at risk.

The Nimbys (not in my back yard) of the Lake District (article, 20 May; letter, 25 May) have no insight into reasons for maintaining a second home, and are doubtless the same people who would oppose planning permission for low cost housing or indeed any development in their areas.

HENRY HARINGTON

School of Liverpool

tice to Liverpool and its artists when he writes, in his article about the Liverpool Tate, that "Liverpool has no particular place in modern art history" ("Pile 'em high, send 'em up north", 26 May).

Liverpool School of Art has bad some of the finest, most influential teachers in Britain. The city had a thriving Academy and to its cathedrafs attracted many notable artists. Painters and sculptors such as Sam Walsh, John Edkins, Arthur Dooley, Adrian Henri, Nicholas Horsfield, Stuart Sutcliffe, Roderick Bisson, Harry Hoodless, Edward Carter Preston, Sean Rice, Maurice Cockrill and Martin Bell are a few who have contributed to the Liverpool So far it has been left mainly to

the Walker Art Gallery, the Bluecoat and commercial dealers to show the work. Undoubtedly the local Tate, like its counterpart in St Ives, can play a useful role too, but the will must be there. DAVID BUCKHAM London N1

Never too old

Sir: In her article about turning fifty (28 May) Bel Mooney bemoans the fact that she will never now backpack around India. I celebrate my 50th hirthday in five week, and am doing just that: together with a friend who passes the same milestone io the same month I am backpacking round India this summer. Our route will cover over 2,000 miles from the deserts of Rajahstan to the beaches of Kerala. Pack your rucksack Belit's not too late to join us! JULIA CHALLENDER

Plight of Czech Roma

Sir: I bave studied the social and political situations of the Roma minority in the Czech Republic during the past two years. I am pleased to note that the British media is devoting more attention to Europe's most silent victims of racism ("Czech cities plan 'apartheid' wall around gypsy ghettoes", 27 May). The situation is even more difficult than you portrayed. I have often been shocked & by the violent reactions that otherwise respectable Czech citizens have towards their Roma neighbours.

Many of the Romanies who live in the Czech Republic today were relocated to the north Bobemian and Moravian industrial heartland as manual workers by the Czecboslovak Communist government in the 1950s. There never was a comprehensive resettlement plan that would help coexistence between old and new settlers. The consequences are obvious today.

Violence between the two communities is an everyday matter. In education, Roma children (who often cannot speak Czech very well) are placed in schools for less able children. In the work place, Czechs will not employ Romanies. While national unemployment rales are around 4 per cent, among the Ro-

mas they are over 90 per cent. There are, however, situations where Czechs and Romanies live well together, as in the southern Bohemian town of Krumlov. There are also some human rights organisations that hravely lobby government for more affirmative action.

From the UK, much can be done. As a prospective member of the European Union, the Czech Republic is very likely to listen to international pressures. The European Union bas included the Roma question in the negotiations for accession. The EU human rights policy, however, is still embryonic. ft is up to governments like the British to push human rights at the heart of the pre-accession strategy. GUIDO DOLARA St Antony's College, Oxford

Gamblers on the Net

Sir: Your report on Internet gambling (Network+, 26 May) raises interesting questions about the potential problems online gaming might cre-

ate in the next few years. Although there are few problem Internet gamblers, the situation will almost certainly change as more and more people go online. The Internet will become technologically more sophisticated, allowing faster speeds, which will facilitate "hard" gamhling (those activities which allow punters to chase their losses).

There are also issues such as age regulation (bow can you be sure that adolescents do not gamble using a parent's credit card?), gambling in the workplace (how do you prevent staff using free Internet access?) and the wider concern of how Internet gambling – which has no geographical boundaries - is regulated under each country's own gaming laws. Dr MARK GRIFFTTHS Reader in Psychology Nottinghum Trent University

Sir: On passive smoking, Tim Short (letter, 29 May) whinges that nonsmokers cannot choose not to inhale. The same points can be made against car drivers forcing others to inhale their fumes. There would not appear to be much point in banning smoking from public places if the air in the streets is just as bad. WILLIAM PROCTER (a smoking cyclist) Nottingham

QUOTE UNQUOTE

"There is something in the new relationship between ministers and journalists which is irritating. The manipulation can be sinister" -James Naughtie, radio presenter.

"The teaching profession is full of beroic people confronted by Kafkaesque absurdity" - Justine Cartwright, novelist, and former teacher.

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"For the Government, history is an embarrassment, something that gets in the way of the hright, cheerful, user-friendly, rebranded philistice Britain that is ministers' only vision of

the future" - Dr John Casey, Fellow of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

"I've tried to write lyrics for the common man, or to put it another way, the thicke" - lan McCulloch, composer of the official FA song for the England World Cup team.

"There is really very little research on tickling. 1 suspect it is because people don't take it very seriously" - Jacqueline Smith, of Stirling University, whose researches have shown that the right foot is more ticklish than the left.

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HOWARD **JACOBSON**

IDLY LEAFING through Mein Kampf recently, the way you do, I came upon some startling observations I'd somehow missed on all my previous leafings. (This is the trouble with easy bedrime reading: you don't attempt to read the text as conscientiously as you should.)

Contrary to our common assumption that there was nothing the Führer liked better of an evening than to settle in with a bottle of schnapps, a plate of Schweinswürstchen, and a picture book containing caricatures of gypsies, homosexuals and semites, in actuality he was as bitterly opposed to comic stereotyping as any north London librarian.

Jakes about ill-favoured ethnic minorities. cartoons, imericles, funny songs - all that these did, he maintained, was to render familiar, harmless and ultimately rather likeable, the very degenerates they offered to mock.

There is more than a little truth in this. 1 remember hearing "Hitler has only got one ball/The other is in the Free Trade Hall" for the first time in the school playground and feeling rather sorry for the nld sociopath. Since most of us as yet had only one ball to speak of ourselves - ooe if we were lucky we felt a natural affinity with him.

What's more, we at least had reason in expect that, in due course, nur second noe would reveal itself, whereas at Hitler's age (we didn't yet realise be was dead) the disability had to be presumed in be permanent.

The fact that he'd left or lost it in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, also worked nn our sympathies. The Free Trade Hall was where we were regularly taken by the school in hear John Barbirolli conduct the Hallé Orchestra. So we knew just how easy it was to lose things there - white mice, marbles, our hearts in girls from the Notre Dame Convent in Cheetham Hill, and, of course, our concen-

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How many times, not yet into the second movement of a Beethoven symphony, did my thoughts go wandering around the anditorium only to settle at last on Hitler and the question of the precise whereabouts (under my very seat perhaps? inside Barbirolli's podium? down the harpist's mouroful décolletage) of the second half of his Mannlichkeit.

That's what funny sones do: they domesticate and humanise the alien. Not my on what does and doesn't make for cordial relations between antagonistic communities. who can you trust?

In the light of which, might not the decision of Camden Town authorities to arrest and prosecute football fans caught singing funny songs about firreigners in north Londno pubs and bars during the World Cup, be the wrong one?

I understand their concern. June is a hot Jonathan Cape.

month, whether or not there is a World Cup, and heat brings out the drinkers and drinks brings out the xenophobes. Do we really want to see Camden High Street thronged with columns of scarf-waving motor aphasics 100 deep, gargling Sof through wedges of lime and chanting "Three German Officers Crossed the Rhine", if that is, as I doubt, what they chant these days?

On aesthetic grounds, we do not. But as far as racial harmony goes, isn't it better that they sing than that they don't? Speaking as someone likely in be walking in the opposite direction, alone and humming Haydn, I'd feel a lot safer hearing communal singing coming my way than the repressed menace of a pack of bull males sunk in sullen silence. Singing is what you do wheo you are happy, or at least seeking consolation in pretend happiness, and the happy are generally harmless. Hitler's complaint, not mine.

It is bere that I must part company with Councillor Sybil Shine who speaks for Camden on such ideological matters as these, and who berself must have been the subject of a few comic ditties in her time - Shine, Rhine, wine, schwein, to say nothing, since we're also talking football, of Sybil and dribble. "It's not so much the singing," the councillor has been reported as saying, "it's the violence that fullows it."

Well, you can nnly tell it as you find it, and I am unable in remember the last time I suffered violence at the hands of singers. Are there any murderers whose signature. so tn speak, was a tune? Who harmooised as they hacked?

l vaguely recall a deviant whistler, but no singer comes in mind, onless we count whoever it was whn sang "Danny Boy" psycho-pathically in a movie, which I think would be unfair since a movie is fiction and "Danny Boy" isn't festive. I suppose you could say that the Three Tenors will be committing murder again in the now de rigueur World Cup Screaming concert, but we mean something different by that.

The King's Singers? Anybody been beaten to a pulp by them? The Andrews Sisters? The Mills Brothers? The Three Degrees? The Inkspots? Ahba? The Vienna Boys Chnir? Idling down Kärntner Strasse, past the Wiener Staatsoper, has anyone ever been set opon by 200 boy sopranos in choirhoy surplices singing the Te Deum as they put the

The Te Deum isn't racist, do I hear you say? But are we not told that the ostentatious worship of one god is potentially offensive to those who worship another? And isn't offence the very last thing we ever want to cause, especially in Camden Town? The Te Deum, what is more, lacks the communal comic verve of "Three German Officers", and therefore must be less conducive to the. forging of those warm inter-racial affections which were the bane of the Führer's life.

So, it would be best all round if the citabout nur friends the Germans and the French in peace. But if they want to sing the Te Deum after England goes down in Tunisia I don't mind that either. Since music is the food of love, and melody soothes the savage breast, sing nn.

Howard Jacobson's new novel 'No More Mister Nice Guy' has just been published by

History need not be bunk - in fact, it can be put to positive use



TREVOR **PHILLIPS**

THE hand of history has rested heavily on our shoulders this week. In London, veterans of the war in the Far East whistled and hooted half a century of bitterness at the Emperor of Japan. Tony Blair called for Britons to look to the future and was ignored.

In Northern Ireland, in spite of all the talk of a new start, the return of something like conventional politics has unleashed a harrage of recrimination.

And in the Indian sub-cootinent, two nations which cao still barely afford to feed their people have come to the brink nf a war that could escalate 50 years of conflict into a hideous ouclear exchange.

In each case, there are many still alive whn played a part in the historical eveots, and who can still offer a version of them to explain the reason for keeping the wounds open. The pain of the protagonists is still real and their losses are undeniable.

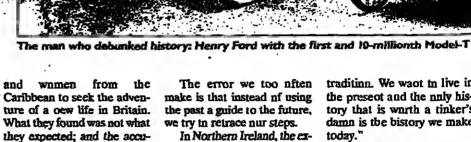
The argument deployed by those whn want to keep these events alive in the public memory is that used by the American philosopher George Santayana: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned in repeat it".

Perhaps; but the past is the past and history moves on. The future should be informed by history, nnt imprisoned by it. It would be tragic if new possibilities were spurned in nrder to settle old men's scores, the detail of which must people cannot recall.

A knowledge of what has gone before should be used in set us free from the shackles of the past; instead it seems to be dragging us hack into bygnne is possible to do something positive with painful memories.

For the past year, I have had the opportunity to work with the survivors of another historical event that took place 50 years ago, which has shown a rather different face nf remembrance.

On June 21, 1948, an nld troopship called Empire Windrush hrought 500 young men



Last week, the BBC and the charity that represents those who came no that first voyage launched a season of celebration. Some of the talk at the launch was of a history of exclusion and discrimination; but it was also of pride in overcoming the hostility, and in resolving the conflicts.

mulated anger over decades nf

alienation gave us the fires of

Brixton in 1981 and 1985.

The reliving of this history is not just for the benefit of those who made it, but for their descendants. The Wiodrush survivors are being honoured for nne principal reason: telling their tale for the first time offers Black Britons a secure place in the story of the British people. In this sense, I have seen history being used to heal a divide rather than to widen it.

But does any of this matter does. Times of rapid change are precisely the moments when history matters most. One reason is that we oeed to know where we are going.

As we pelt headlong into the uncharted future, propelled by oew technologies and huge global shifts in economics and politics, the nnly map we have is the past. It cannot be definitive; but it is the best we have.

The error we too nften make is that instead of using the past a guide to the future, we try in retrace nur steps.

In Northern Ireland, the extremist parties on both sides see themselves as the keepers of the flame for traditions and cultures under threat from hostile forces. There's nothing wrong with that, except when you use the light of the flame to march resolutely backwards.

The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote that "if meo could learn from history, what lessons it might teach us ... but passion and party blind our eyes". The Rev lan Paisley, Mr Gerry Adams and the governments of India and Pakistan should read those words with

The other reason for us to pay attention to history is that as well needing to know where we are going, we need to know who we are. History is the key to identity, and without recourse to it, societies are easy prey to tyrants who want to impose their own vision of the serve their present purposes.

Henry Ford's famous dicturn "history is hunk" is not often read in full. But the whole quotatioo reveals the depth nf Ford's authoritarianism and his certainty that technology could revolutionise the world. What Ford actually told the Chicago Tribune was that "Histnry is more or less bunk. It's traditing. We don't want traditing. We want to live in the present and the naly history that is worth a tinker's damn is the bistory we make today.

Ford was speaking in 1916, as meo died by the thousand in the trenches of Europe, The Bolsheviks were about to usher in a regime that would so refine the art of rewriting history to serve the present that a generation of Russians would virtually forget their own traditions.

Ford's uncompromising modernism, set against this background made some sense - mass production would affer a standard of living and security in workers they had never hefnre experienced, in exchange for their hecoming efficient elements in the production process.

But his words might just as easily have heen uttered by Stalin or Hitler, both of whom shared Ford's certainty that modernism would make history unnecessary, except as a: tool of propaganda. It was all of a piece with a vision of so- his England was a nation nf uality in the service of the state, whether capitalist or otherwise. And we know where all that eoded up. Thank God for the dustbin of history.

Name of this should prejudice us against the value of histnry as a vital key to nur present and future. We simply have in ensure that the oot let go of the past, but they account we use is complete and inclusive.

In this country, perhaps the most important test over the next few years will be the way that we redefine and reassert what it means to be English. One of the consequences of Scottish and Welsh devolutinn has been to awaken the English in the fact that they too have a history that tells them whn they are now.

But most English people have very little due what that history and identity is, and some express it in the most reactionary and negative way: which we will probably hear much of during the upcoming Warld Cup. But books are being written, films are being made and documentaries shut that discuss the idea of Englishness.

The most powerful image of England ever cast must surely be Blake's Jenusalem. It has become a cliche for rolling green hills and neat little chocolate box villages. Actually Blake's Satanic mills lay on the south bank of the river Thames, and diguity for the labourer.

We need history; but we need in see the past for what it was, not what we want it to be. Otherwise, we end up inventing new reasons to relive old conflicts. The Indians and Pakistanis, the Nnrthern Irish and the Far East veterans oced should no innger be enslaved

Please, Sayle-san, lend your bank some money

Murray Sayle tells a tale of a Japanese financial panic that is starting in his village

1 WAS AT HOME in nur Japanese mountain village nne snowy Monday morning last December when a polite young man tapped at nur door.

We know him well. He works at our local building society, which takes deposits and lends to buy homes. "Can you help us out, Sayle-san?" he asked. "If you have any money around the bouse, please come and pay it in straight away. It's only for 24 hours. You can take it nut again tomorrow."

"We'd like to help," said my wife, Jenny, who is English and sensible, "but as it happens, we don't have an account with you. And what you have just said doesn't exactly persuade us to npen one. Why do you need my house-keep-

"Well, it's no big deal," he said. "I'll try next door." And nff he went.

I went round later to ask our visitor what was going on. His new nffice, all glass and chrome, stands ont among the old wooden houses of our village street. "We don't keep cash here over the weekend," he explained. "I was afraid that someone would try to take money out this morning, the word would get round that we couldn't pay, and in an hour we'd be cleaned out."

Then the phone rang. "If you have any money in the Yokohama Bank get it out," a friendly neighbour advised. "They'll be the next to go."

lenny went down to look and sure chough, there were queues to make withdrawals. It turned out to be just a remour, but the fact that it was being

spread about one of Japan's nidest banks shows how jumpy the Japanese are getting these days.

Oriental windiness? 1 consulted a couple of economic classics I have been reading recently, Manias, Panics and Crashes, by Charles P Kindleberger, and his even more ominously titled The World in Depression, 1929-1939. During the great British crash of

1826, the Times reported, "a panic seized upon the public, such as had never been witnessed before: everybody begging for money - money - but money was hardly upon any condition to

The Bank of Japan has been pouring liquidity (bankerese for cash) into the Japanese economy since 1989; the presses, it is said, are thundering like Hondas, churning out banknotes, stacking them up in the cellars against -what? Readers who get lost in the blizzard

of zeros on the financial pages still know that the principle of fractional reserve banking, invented in Florence about the time Donatello was chiselling David, is that a lnt more can be loaned out than is actually in the vault, provided everyone doesn't ask for his or her money back at the same time. It is this quirk of human credulity that, m fact, makes banking possible.

Credit, we recall, is the Latin for "he believes it, and as long as belief is strong, the capboard can actually be bare, behind the imposing facades favoured by bank architects.

We humans are adept at inventing new forms of money: credit cards, cheques, certificates of deposit, IOUs, even the standing offer of a fiver until pay-day are all forms of money; the list is endless. So when enough people sincerely want to become rich by buying assets to sell them again, nr just buying the right to sell them to the oext punter in line, shortage of cash, east nr west, has never yet stopped them.

Something like this happened in

speculative boom, based on big-city real estate and shares with the slightest land components, even as slender as a link to memberships in imaginary golf clubs. At its height, one memnrable calculation showed that Emperor Akihito's palace in Tokyo, about the size of London's Hyde Park, was worth more than Canada.

In January 1990, Japan's supply of optimists ran out, as it always does. There ensued what Germans, who nften have them, call a Torschlusspanik -a rush to get out before the door shuts.

The banks were left with a package of bad loans totalling, by the government's own admission, Y76 trillion, or around \$540bn - but, if we include the

is a degree of deflation no banking system can withstand. The one bright spot has been

Japan's mighty export industries, whose worldwide market shares have replaced the lost empire as Japan's manifest destiny. Exporting from a deressed economy which imports the bare minimum, however, puts your currency up and up, and eventually chokes off your exports - the British predicament that sparked the Jarrow

In 1985 a dollar bought almost Y240. By 1992 it was down to Y80. Exports became all but unexportable. Japan's response was to move prodeficit in the Japanese postal savings duction offshore, where meek labour to keep on lending to borrowers whn

"I was afraid," he explained, "that someone would try to take money out and then the word would get round and we'd be cleaned out'

system, it was probably nearer a round \$1 trillion.

Oriental inscrutability alone has enabled the Japanese bureaucrats to conceal this enormous hole in the national finances for close on eight years, while hoping for something to turn up. It has, however, turned down. And it has happened in, of all places, the lands of tinkling temple bells and pedigreed fat cats (both feline and human), South-East Asia - once part of the Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere and

now lapan's valley of despond. "Bubble" is a misleading metaphor for what happens when greed temporarily overcomes fear in a collective psyche. "Boil" would be better, because when a boil bursts it leaves a hole. Bust follows boom, as the process goes into reverse. Japan has been in and out of

for as little as a dollar a day beckoned from among the palm trees.

Altogether Japan invested \$271bn in other Asian countries in the mid 1990s. The result was to duplicate in those cleaner, greener lands (but not for long, after the factories arrived) Japan's own bloated export industries, all competing for the same markets in Europe and the US.

As the competition got hotter, the Japanese poured more into Asia, blowing up bigger credit-fed bubbles. A year ago "international speculatois", sincerely nting to be even richer, selected the Thai baht as the easiest to pick off, in a practised short-sell. The Asian chain of bubbles collapsed, the most spectacular, of course, being Indonesia with blood flowing in the streets.

Indonesia was also Japan's biggest

a deflationary spiral since 1990; and as borrower. Asia had been taking a quar-John Maynard Keynes observed, there ter of Japan's exports, and the loans there suddenly joined the "ano-performing" mountain back home. An important bank and one nf Japan's "Big Four" brokerage houses went bust. The rest slammed the credit window shut. Two weeks later the young man was at our door, asking for Jenny's bousekeeping money.

Let us, a little uneasily perhaps, reconsult our economic guru Kindleberger. On the classical path to depression, be says, we first see displacement, a move the system is unused to -such as the Japanese-led expedition to South-East Asia, perhaps?

Then we have what used to be called overtrading: lenders who have can't stop borrowing. This is followed by a phase of distress, the whole credit mechanism stretched taut as a Japanese drum.

In the distress phase, says Kindleberger, demand fails, and supply follows. People are thrown out of work, demand falk some more, and so down the deadly spiral.

At least two remedies, contradictory, it is true, could be tried: either let the fires of speculation burn themselves out, no matter who gets singed; or conversely, use public money, that is, our future taxes, to prop up every bad loan, every bungry speculator, every bent politician, so the relatively good times can keep rolling for us all.

The Japanese, as they often do, are trying both simultaneously, which is not doing much for their business confidence. But surely an intelligent, caring world system won't let some selfish impulse, some bad idea, some purely temporary shortage ...

Just a tick. Somebody's at the

A longer version of this article appears in this week's 'New Statesman'.



Barry Goldwater

THE CANDIDATE might Goldwater was finally destroyed have been sent straight from by one of the first classic polit-Central Casting. He was tall. ical ads on television. It showed tanned, handsome, and he a little girl counting the petals looked as if he had spent many of a daisy. As the countdown hours in the saddle, which in- ends, a mushroom cloud fills deed he had. As he moved the sky. through his speech, the thousands of Republican delegates divided, and the candidate had party to its foundations and forced it to examine its deepest convictions.

lives for you," he had begun, to take your liberties in return for relieving you of your responsibilities -those who elevate the state and downgrade the citizen -- must ultimately see a world in which earthly power can be substituted for divine will. This nation was founded upon the rejection of that notion.

And now he reached his famous

Let our Republicanism, so focused and so dedicated, not be made fuzzy and futile by unthinking and stupid

(He meant "conservative" and "moderate".)

t would remind you that extremism in the defence of liberty is no vice. And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of justice

The hall erupted in a frenzy screamed their rage and fear in immoderate terms. And there was nothing conservative about the way the conservatives Reagan. roared their triumphant approval.

Senator Barry M. Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, was the Republican candidate for the presidency in 1964. If Ronald Reagan was to be the conservative Messiah, Barry Goldwater was his John the

His acceptance speech in San Francisco was the defining short term, it launched him on one of the most disastrous campaigns for the presidency in the 20th century. By proclaiming his own extremism, Goldwater had opened himself to being presented by his formidable Democratic opponent, President Lyndon Baines Johnson, as a warmonger, even a madman. "In your guts," jeered the Democrats, "you know he's nuts!"

In a longer perspective, Goldwater's courageous, if illassembled in the Cow Palace judged, campaign in 1964 arena in San Francisco were marked the watershed in the tense. They had been bitterly long road of the conservative revival in the United States. At the only been chosen after a end of the Second World War. struggle which had rent the with Franklin Roosevelt in the White House, all but a stubborn remnant of Americans had accepted the welfare state policies "Those who seek to live your of the New Deal. Conservatism was a marginalised, even diseraced, political philosophy.

In the 1950s, the Republican party was controlled by safely moderate Republicans who gambled but did not challenge most of the New Deal agenda. It was also increasingly divided between these predominantly eastern leaders and the impatient westerners who were typified and represented by Barry Goldwater. His victory at the Cow Palace in July 1964 was both the achievement of a skilfully managed political insurgency, and the dawn of a new. ideologically intransigent conservative Republican party. Towards the end of the 1964 campaign, a group of Californian conservatives clubbed toof shouting. The moderates gether to pay for a television broadcast in support of Goldwater. The man they chose to make the speech was Ronald

The 1964 campaign was the zenith of Goldwater's career. It stamped on the public mind a strangely misleading picture of the man's real personality, a distortion to which Goldwater himself contributed by his fondness for violent rhetoric. He was genuinely very conservative in his beliefs and opinions. He once defended Senator Joe McCarthy, for example, by moment of his career. In the saying of McCarthy's critics, All the discredited figures of the Hiss-

Yalta period of American dishonesty have crawled out from under their logs ... these people have dipped in the smut pot to discredit Senator McCarthy and his work against

Yet if he displayed both strong opinions and occasionally an imperious temper, he was personally an amiable, even a laid-back man. He was in

'In your guts, you know he's nuts!': Goldwater acknowledging defeat in the 1964 US presidential election

al or a political manipulator, he loved to pilot himself, and to ride on borseback in the spacious landscape of his native some memorably sensitive photographs. He was a man of genuine warmth and charm, many respects a typical western many in Washington who by no owned by the government, as self, though of Jewish descent, fortably off. He served as chair-Near the end of the campaign American. He was not by tem- means shared his opinions, in- national park, national forest, was an Episcopalian by religion, man of Goldwaters from 1937

perament either an intellectu- cluding, for example, John F. military base or Indian reser- which inspired one Jewish wit Kennedy himself.

Like many westerners, he had inherited a suspicion of the Federal government which he Arizona, of which he took regarded almost as a colonial power. This attitude was not born of the government's remoteness, but of its omnipreswho formed friendships with ence. Much of the state was to the United States. He him-state and was more than com-

must be reduced. Goldwater's paternal grandtury, and his father moved on

vation. Goldwater believed to say, "I always knew that the passionately that Federal dom- first Jewish candidate for the inance and Federal interference White House would be an Episcopalian."

He inherited a controlling infather migrated from Russia to terest in the family department England in the mid-19th cen- store in fast-growing Phoenix with branches elsewhere in the

president of the company. He huilt himself a beautiful house in the desert near Phoenix.

Educated at Staunton Military Academy in Virginia and at the University of Arizona, Goldwaler served in the US Army Air Force in the Second World War, and flew as a pilot. After he returned to civilian life, he continued to fly in the Air Force reserve, in which he was promoted to Major-General. He first got involved in politics on the Phoenix school board. In 1952 he was elected to the United States Senate, defeating no less an opponent than the Democratic majority leader, Senator Ernest W. McFarland.

Goldwater did not at first have a high profile in the Senate, though his strong defence of Joe McCarthy when the Senate was voting on his censure in 1954 did attract attention. People did begin to look up when he defeated McFarland, who in the meantime had been elected governor, a second time in 1958.

He first emerged as a national figure in 1959 when he became the senior member of the Senate labour committee: Its able counsel, Michael Bernstein, suggested to Goldwater that he might become a voice for "the forgotten American", and he became a champion for conservatives when almost single-handed he defeated what they saw as a bad labour hill introduced by Senator John F. Kennedy and so opened the way for the anti-labour Landrum-Griffiths hill.

By 1960, Goldwater was being mentioned as a future presidential candidate. In 1962 he published a best-selling book called Why Not Victory? (Later he published a number of books about Arizona, some illustrated with his own photographs.) After Nixon's defeat in that year by Kennedy, Goldwater emerged as the champion of the right wing of the party against Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York, Governor William Scranton of Pennsylvania and other moderates. He was taken up by southern conservatives troubled by the threat of Federally sponsored desegregation, as well as by the conservative intellectuals grouped around William F. Buckley's National

Review. As 1964 approached, a bril- Phoenix 29 May 1998.

to 1953, and thereafter was liant campaign in Goldwater's favour was mounted by the political scientist turned political operator F. Clifton White and a small band of conservative enthusiasts. Goldwater, however, infuriated his own supporters by his Hamlet-like hesitations and changes of mind. When he did win the nomination, he hastened his own downfall by refusing to make a gesture to the defeated moderates, choosing instead as his Vice-Presidential running mate the obscure hut sharp-tongued William Miller.

After his brief moment in the national spotlight and the humiliation of his defeat, hrought about in part by one of the most ruthlessly partisan campaigns the supposedly non-partisan major newspapers like the New York Times have ever descended to. Goldwater did nol succumb to bitterness.

He resigned from the Senate in order to run for President, but returned in 1969 and remained there until 1987. In 1969 his son, Barry M. Goldwater Jur, was elected to Congress as a Republican from California.

As the decades passed, the father became a respected as well as a well-liked elder statesman. He was a leading member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and a vigilant chairman of the Senate Select Committee on intelligence, the watchdog body supervising the Central Intelligence

Agency. He remained a committed though thoughtful conservative, but displayed his independence of mind on many occasions, In 1984, for example, when the CIA was found to have been mining harbours in Nicaragua in defiance of legislation passed by the Democratic majority in Congress, Goldwater exploded, "This is a hell of a way to run a railroad!" he wrote to Bill Casey, the director of Central Intelligence. "I am pissed off!"

Godfrey Hodgson

Barry Morris Goldwater, politician: born Phoenix, Arizona I January 1909; Republican Senator from Arizona 1952-64, 1969-87; married 1934 Margaret Johnson (died 1985; two sons, two doughters), 1992 Susan McMurray Wechsler; died

Lazar Saryan, composer, died

Yerevan, Armenia 27 May, aged

September :

A SOUTH THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PERSON OF T

Lana Morris



Photograph: Kobal Collection

ette, Lana Morris brought a refreshing liveliness and sense of humour to British films in the

One of a group of Rank starlets that included Barbara Mur-Blackman, she was the belowstairs maid snatching moments to read racy novels in Spring in Park Lane, and Norman Wisdom's girlfriend in Trouble In Store. Her marriage to the radio and television producer Ronnie Waldman was one of the happiest in show business. Later she was a star of television soaps such as The Forsyte Saga and Howard's Way, and was about to

A PERKY, bright-eyed brun- appear in a new stage production at the time of her death.

Born Pamela Matthews in Ruislip, Middlesex, Morris came from a theatrical family. Her great-grandfather was in Irving's Drury Lane company ray, Rona Anderson and Honor and her mother was the silent film actress Corinne Burford, At the age of 16 she played her first professional role in the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park and the same year made her screen début (under her teal name) as the wife of boffin David Tomlinson in School for Secrets (1946), but she first received major attention when she was given the part of the flirtatious maid in Spring in Park

Anna Neagle/Michael Wilding "London" films and an enormous success.

Though Morris was primarily a supporting player, with star roles only in B movies, her presence in such films as Trottie True (1949). The Chiltern Hundreds (1949) and The Woman in Question (1950) always provided extra sparkle, and she was rewarded with the female lead of the shop girl to whom Norman Wisdom sang "Don't Laugh at Me" in his final starring film Trouble in Store (1953), "She was a sweet girl," said Wisdom recently. Morris membered for his "Puzzle partnered the comic again in

Lane (1948), the best of the one of his best films, Man of the ties, and later Head of BBC Moment (1955), and had leading roles in such supporting fea- co-produced the television tures as Black 13 (1953) and by the end of the decade her Morris featured. Though he name had dropped well down the cast list of such films as No Trees in the Street (1958) and Passport to Shame (1959).

Having starred on radio in The Forces Show, Morris now steadily both as actress and panellist. It was on the set of his television show Kaleidoscope that she met the BBC producer Ronnie Waldman, fondly re-Corner" radio spots in the For- barmaid at the luxury hotel

Light Entertainment. Waldman scripts about a hotel detective. Radio Cab Murder (1964), but The Inch Man (1951), in which was 16 years her senior, their marriage was a successful one and their son Simon was born in 1957, after which Morris returned to acting - she and Waldman were publicised as a moved into relevision, working model example of a couple combining two media careers

> with a happy home life, On stage, Morris played in Move Over Mrs Markham (1971), and her prolific television work included the role of

run by Margaret Lockwood in The Royalty (1957-58) and a part in the distinguished BBC serialisation of The Forsyte Saga (1967). Waldman died in 1978 and Morris moved from their Hertfordshire home to a small London house. A decade later she revealed a new glamorous image as the powerful Vanessa Andenberg in the BBC's series centred on a South Coast boatyard. Howard's Way.

Tom Vallance

Pamela Matthews (Lana Morris), actress: born Ruislip, Middlesex II March 1930; married Rannie Waldman (died 1978; one son); died Slough, Berkshire 27 May 1998. Authority 1988-98.

77. A student of Shostakovich; one of his most popular pieces, "Symphony Panel", was based on four landscapes by his father, a well-known Armenian painter. Chantal Mauduit, mountaineer, died Mount Dhaulagiri l. Nepal 16 May, aged 34. France's best-known female climber, she had scaled six of the world's 14 peaks above 8,000 metres.

Mordechai Strigler, writer and journalist, died New York 10 May, aged 74. Editor since 1987 of Forverts ("Forward"), the oldest Yiddish newspaper in the world.

Bill Bowman, businessman, died 11 May, aged 65. Chairman of the Covent Garden Market

BIRTHS. **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

BARRACLOUGH: On 28 May 1998 to Sally (nee Fredericks) and Bruce, a son, Charles Frederick, brother for George.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Hernoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London El4 SDL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 (24hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthments (notices, functions, Forth-coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, YAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchbo number is 0171-293 2000.

The OBITUARIES e-mail address is

Changing of the Guard TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ipm: F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard. t Bucklingham Paisee, 4pm. TOMOR-ROW: The Heuschold Cavairy Mounted Regiment mounts the Outen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, [lam; No 7 Culdarcam Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band myrided by the Welch Guards. Marriages

The marriage took place yesterday at Marylebooe Register Office between Allan Lowe and Hazel Hindler.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Neville Braybrooke, writer, 75; Mr William Cleland, thoracic surgeon, 86; Mr Ray Cooney, theatrical producer, 66; Mr Peter Elis, actor, 62; The Marquess of Ely, former headmaster, 85; Mr Harry Enfield, writer and comedian, 37; The Right Rev John Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford, 56; Mr Christopher Hask-ins, chairman, Northern Foods, 6t; Sir David Knox, former MP, 65; Mr Timothy Llewellyn, Director, Henry Moore Foundation, 51; Sir lan Lleyd, former MP, 77; Mr Tim Loughton MP, 36; Dr John Marks, former Chairman, British Medical Association, 73; Dr Robert Mercer. Headmaster, Prior Park College, 49; Mr Antony Moore, former diplomat, 80: Lord Richard QC, Lord Prov Seal and Leader of the House of Lords, 66; Mr Tim Waterstone, bookseller, 59; Mr Philip Whitehead, MEP, writer, television producer and former Chairman, Consumers' Association, 61: Mr Bob Willis, cricketer, 49: Sir Frederick Wood, honorary life president, Croda International, 72. TOMORROW: Prince Rainier III of Monaco, 75; Miss Lynda Bellingham, actress, 50; Sir Derek Birley, former Vice-Chancellor. University of Ulster, 72: Mr Robert Blizzard MP, 48: Maj-Gen Keith Burch, sonner Director Personnel, Defence Staff, Ministry of Defence, 67: Miss Judy Campbell, actress and singer, 82; Professor Dame June Clark, Professor of Nursing, Middlesex University, 57; Sir John Daniel, Vice-Chancellor,

Open University, 56: Judge Linda Davies, circuit judge, 53; Mr Clint Eastwood, actor, 68: Admiral Sir James Eberle, former Director, Royal institute of International Affairs 7t; Mr Andrew Grana, jeweller, 77; Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman, ICL, 66; Miss Debbie Moore, aerobies exponent, St. Mr John Prescott MP, Deputy Prime Minister, 60; Lard Sandberg, banker, 7t; Sir Neil Shaw, chairman, Eute and Lyle, 69; Miss Isobel Stoate, former diplomat. 71: Sir William Taylor, President. Society for Research in Higher Education, 68: Sir Michael Turner, High Court judge, 67; Mr Terry Waite, former Archbishop of Canterbury's adviser on Anglican Communion Affairs, 59.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Peler the Great, Tsur of Russia, 1672. Deaths: Joan of Arc, burnt at the stake at Rouen ti 31. On this day: the first hover-craft flight took place at Cowe, tsle of Wight, 1959. Today is the Feast Day of St Exoperantius of Ravenna. Si Ferdinand of Castile. Si Isaac of Constantinople, Si Joon of Are, Si Luke Kirby, Si Madelgisitus or Maugeille and St Walstan, TO-MORROW: Births: William Heath Robinson, illustrator, 1872, Deaths: Adolf Eichmann, Nazi war criminal. hanged, 1962. On this days the White Star liner Titanic was launched at Belfast, 1911. Tomorrow is Whit Sunday and the Feast Day of Saints Cantius, Cantianus, Cantianella and Protus, St Mechtildis of Edelstenen and St Petronilla.

Lectures

TODAY Victoria and Albert Museum: Terry Bloxham, "Medieval Clothing Depicted in Art", 230pm.

FAITH & REASON

We struggle with the cosmic powers of consumerism

The season of the spirit must take us into a murkier realm than might be supposed, writes Elaine Storkey.

WE LIVE in an era where "spirit" is back in vogue. There are still people around who are materialists by intellectual commitment, believing only in practicality and what we can perceive through the senses. But they are a dwindling hand. Most people now readily acknowledge that what we see or hear is only a very small part of the complex reality that exists; contemporary scientific research makes it hard for us to believe anything else. What is more, we recognise that many things which matter most in our daily lives lie beyond our aright. senses: love, values, morality, time, space, the past persons, communities, even logic. So it has become so much casier to accept that the world is a intricate mixture of what is seen and unseen, and that the unseen includes the spiritual. The spiritual is part of our of contest, and we are close to the cenown selves also, for we are more than tre of the battle. For there are many ri- is no less a struggle when evil mas-

There is a problem here, though. which we recognise least have the spirituality itself becomes neutralised, its idea of the spiritual can become greatest power. Consumerism is one of What is needed is a way of somehow This idea of the spiritual can become a vague, amorphous category which has no shape or structure. We can talk of "spiritual values" or of something having a "spiritual quality", by which we usually mean something ethereal and profound, but we are not always sure what. Or we can identify the spiritual with situations where we feel moved or exhilarated, until it seems as if there are spirits everywhere: in the trees swaying in the wind, the waves lapping on the shore, the rugged boulders on the cliffs. In effect we turn the spiritual into an nebulous, benign zone, an alternative realm beyond the physical which holds the most sublime experiences for people who delve deeply. And those who urge us to develop our spirit tell us that we can then transcend material existence and experience the world

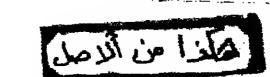
Yet developing our spirituality does not automatically lead us gently towards truth and beauty. Identifying the spirit does not ensure peace or joy. Because the spiritual is not a single, neutral zone. Nor is it necessarily benign. It is a place anatomy, neurology and cell structures. val forces after our spirits, and these querades nonchalantly as normality, and than servitude.

them, claiming our allegiance as thorfinancial. Every 15 minutes is broadcasts its message that it is blessed to consume, and invites us to make this the central spiritual truth of our lives. But when we spiritual as a neutral or benign realm soon flies in the face of our real experience. We find, for example, we can be ly than one of generosity, of hitterness rather than love, of injustice rather than a bid for our spiritual lives and demanding our energy. So it is not the existence of the spiritual that deepens our experience of reality; it is how we allow our spirits to be moulded.

in no doubt about this point, insisting that "our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against . . . cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil. It

What is needed is a way of somehow exposing the spiritual realm, allowing oughly in the spiritual realm as in the what is unseen to he seen, so we can separate the spirit of goodness from the spirits of destruction. At one level this exposure takes each day, in the attitudes people exhibit in their lives. Violent allow such commercialism to feed us, anger, jealousy, strife, impurity, quarour spirits become thin. As we face rels, unfairness, idolatry are reflections these contests every day the idea of the of a distorted spirituality, whereas love, joy, peace, pauence, kindness, faithfulness, generosity, self-control are described as fruits of the Holy Spirinvaded by a spirit of greed more casit of God whose arrival among Jesus's disciples after the Resurrection is celchrated by Christians at Pentecost tofairness. In fact we can become all too morrow. Then the Holy Spirit spoke not aware of quite sinister forces making just to people's spirits, but to their understanding also; came not just to the spiritual world, but to the world that we see and hear. For there are not two worlds but one: the creation of the loving God who calls us to live our lives The earliest Christian writers were with integrity and spiritual discernment.

Today we struggle against contemporary powers which would control our spirits, and shape the spirituality of our culture. And we have been given the responsibility of choosing the spiritual direction which leads to freedom rather



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Second and third-liners take up the running

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

SELL in May and go away. Trading volume looked merger talks with Unigate, probably the oldest of the high but hig trades in the slumped 33-5p to 183p. Unistock market proverbs, has once again turned out to be

completely wide of the mark. looned turnover. Although Footsie has dillied and dallied throughout the has been in rampant form as second and third-liners have taken up the running from the rather jaded looking blue

chips. As Footsie has fallen just 57.6 points to 5,870.7 supporting indices have made

dramatic progress. The mid cap has surged oearly 300 points, hitting a peak this week, and the small cap has climbed 127 to a high.

The merry mooth of May did not, however, enjoy a rapturous close. Worries still persist about Asian markets and Moscow's steadier display does not carry much conviction.

A nagging feeling that domestic interest rates could be set for a surprise increase already retarded sentiment.

once crippled Queeos Moat Houses, the hotel chain, hal-

QMH jumped 4.5p to 36.5p, highest since the shares month the rest of the market returned from suspension three years ago, as Banque Nationale de Paris Suisse sold its 17 per cent stake. It was placed by stockbroker Cazenove with institutional investors. Most of the French interest was acquired in the low teens.

Helped by the 167 million recorded QMH volume, market turnover topped I biltion shares.

Asda, contemplating a trading alliance with Kingfisher, fell 1p to 182p. The most flirtatious Footsie coostituent is also rumoured to be talking about a possible trading pack with Storehouse, up 10p to 279p. Positive comments from Salomon Smith

gate, expressing relief that such an ambitious deal had been aborted, rose 28.5p to 665p.

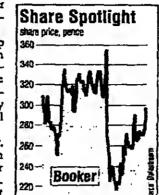
Compess, the contract caterer, jumped 85p to 1,270p on Rentokii Initial hid hopes and indications that the shares could be joining Morgan Stan-ley's influential international iodex. Rentnkil was agaio heavily traded, gaining 12p to 427.5p. MFI struggled up just 1.5p to 79p, oo talk of corpo-

rate action. Brewer Bass frothed 33p higher to 1,125p. Morgan Stanley support was responsible. The investment house has apparently dropped General Electric Co from its huy list in favour of Bass. GEC fell 4p to 502p.

Beazer, the house builder. managed a further 11p gain in 231p on persistent chatter that a bid is being prepared. Barney also helped sentiment. The shares are at their highest Hillsdown, on the dramat- since they returned to market

British Aerospace, 24p up at 543p, responded to the development of a joint venture with the French Dassault Aviation to research hi-tech systems for combat aircraft.

On the banking pitch, HSBC gained 57p to 1,600p after a bullish trading statement which prompted Morgan Stanley to produce a near 2.200p target.



Irish banks, with Panmure Gordon suggesting a possible 25 per cent upside, were firm. Allied Irish improved 10p to

804.5p.
United Assurance gained 37.5p tn 611p. Andrew Longhurst, the man who developed Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society hefare being squeezed out after the Lloyds TSB take over. is to become chairman and Alan Frost, Abbey Life managing director, chief

executive. Booker, the food group, held at 196p against 479p a few years ago. The yearly meeting is due oext week when details of a strategic review should be known. A break-up is thought

Computer group CMG 55p gain, after its boous issue. The slimlining operation did not, however, go to well in Amsterdam, where confusion prompted a share suspension.

continued with a 13.5p gain to 179.5p. Spargo Consulting, where

an American hid has been agreed, rose 6.5p to 284p. Comino, an IT group, put on 16p to a 270.5p peak. The shares have climbed more than 100p io a few weeks. There was the inevitable takeover talk.

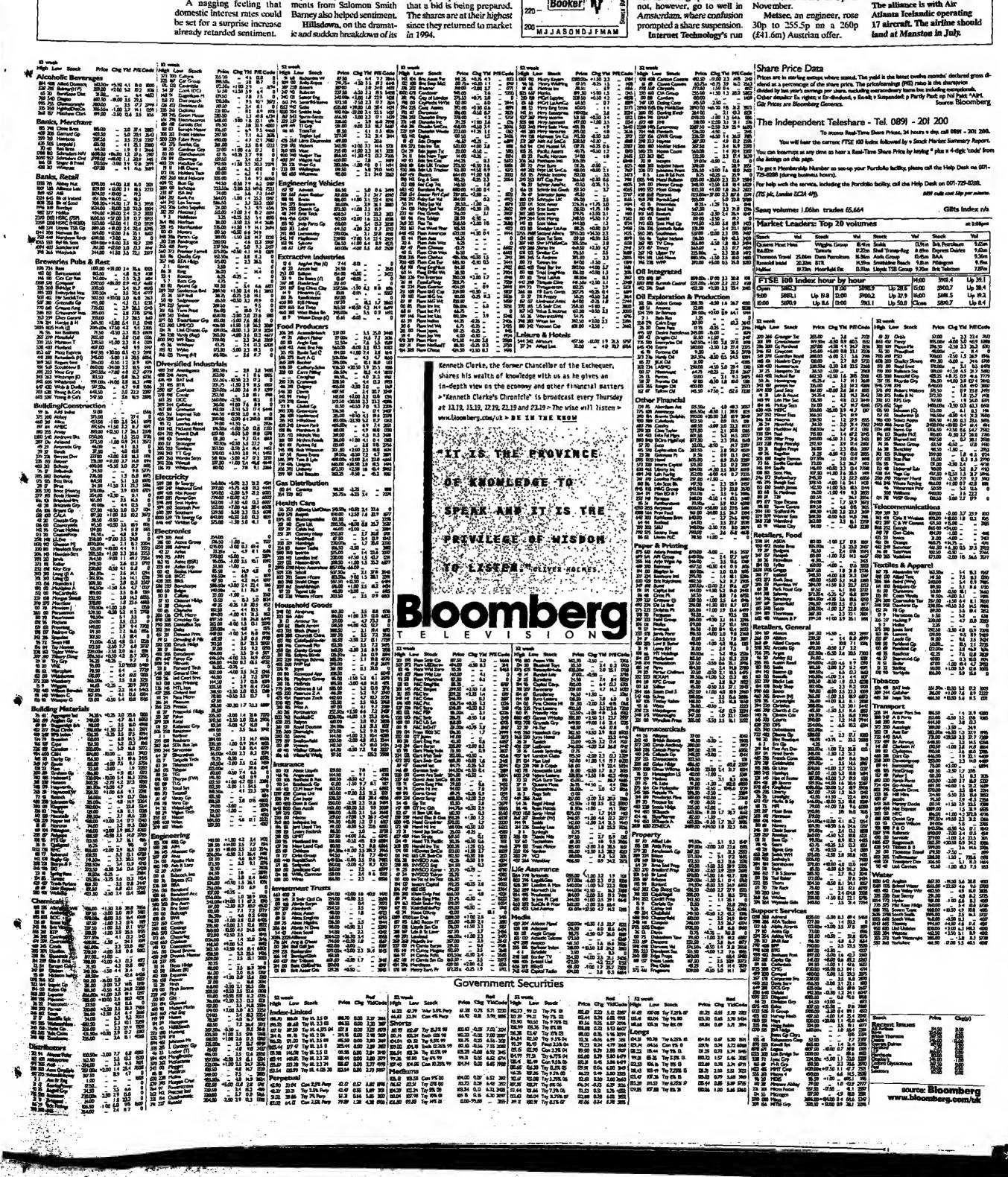
Delancey, an obscure property group, was comfortably the day's top performer, jumping 46 per cent to 150p. George Soros, the currency trader famed for breaking the Bank of England, has de-

scended on the company. He intends to make Delancey his British vehicle and is pumping £100m into the property minnow. The deal also includes the acquisition of traded at 1,720p, an effective a property advisory company owned by the Rithlat family. The shares were 65.5p in November.

Metsec, an engineer, rose 30p to 255.5p nn a 260p TAKING STOCK

MALLETT, one of London's oldest antique dealers, has a new and powerful investor. Lord Weinstock, creator of General Electric Co, has emerged as a 29.93 per cent shareholder. The stake was acquired from the Al-Fayeds' Harrod Holdings. But Lord Weinstock, 73, does not appear to be coming out of retirement. He regards the shareholding as a long term investment and he is well known to the company, started in Bath 130 years ago. Five years ago Mallett called off merger talks with Asprey. the jeweller. The antique dealer's shares welcomed the Weinstock arrival with a 20p gain to 122.5p, a high.

WIGGINS, the property developer which has caught the aviation bug, rose 2.25p to 14.5p after fixing up a new civil airline operation at Kent's Manston Airport which it acquired last year. The alliance is with Air Atlanta Icelandic operating 17 aircraft. The airline should land at Manston in July.



George Soros: Aiready had links with the Ritblat family

Soros buys into UK property

GEORGE SOROS, the man who made \$1hn when the pound fell out of the exchange rate mechanism, is buying into the UK property sector through a deal which also gives the billionaire investor a UK stock market vehicle.

The move is being seen as a thumbs up for the UK property market from Mr Soros, a speculator who inspires legions of copycat investors the world over.

Quantum Realty Fund, which is managed by Soros Fund Management, is to take a controlling shareholding in

leapt by almost 50 per cent at the news deal is completed in early July. to close at 150p, up 47.5p.

Although Quantum will provide financial backing for Delancey, management for the property company will be provided by Freehold Portfolios Estates in Delancey, a sum which will give it a 66.7 (FPE), a property advisory company per cent stake. Delancey plans to raise a (FPE), a property advisory company owned by James Ritblat, son of John Ritblat, the formidable chairman of British Land. Delancey is to buy FPE in a deal which could net Mr Ritblat Junior as much as £4m in Delancey stock.

James Ritblat will become managing director of the new Delancey Estates. Delancey Estates, a hitherto little-known Colin Wagman, Delancey's current chair-

property company. Shares in Delancey man, is expected to step down once the

Mr Wagman said: "These proposals will transform Delancey's profile and the opportunities available to the company."

Quantum Realty is investing £100.5m further £28m via a share issue.

James Rithlat will have to cope with some interesting shareholder dynamics in his new role. His father currently holds 27 per cent of Delancey, although this stake will be diluted to just under 7 per cent once the Quantum deal goes

it", said Mr Ritblat of his father's stake in Delancey. "We'll just have to see how

The Quantum-Delancey-FPE deal cements years of co-operation between the Rithlat and Soros families. Quantum Realty and British Land embarked on a joint venture between 1992 and 1994, an initiative managed by James Rithlat.

The joint venture was brought to an end "amicably" in 1994 after Quantum decided to "reallocate its assets", according to one source. But James Ritblat evidently managed to impress the powers that he - his company FPE now

Soros family.

Mr Wagman said he initiated talks with Quantum, which was more than happy to invest in Delancey as long as it had the

right management team. Given Mr Soros's links with the Ritblat family, FPE seemed the natural place to turn for managerial input, Mr Wagman

James Ritblat will be joined on the Delancey hoard by Richard Katz, Quantum Realty's chairman, and Martin Edelman, real estate adviser to Soros Fund Management. The company is looking for another three non-executives.

Crisis for Japan and HK

By Stephen Vines in Hong Kong

JAPAN yesterday unveiled its worst unemployment figures since World War II, as the yen slumped to a seven-year low against the dollar. Although the news cast a pall over Japanese markets it registered nothing like the shock of the Hong Kong government's revelation that the economy had slid into recession for the first time in 13 years.

In the first quarter of the year, Hong Kong's economic growth declined by 2 per cent in real terms, a drop far worse than expected by investors. The stock market was closed when the announcement was made and so did not respond but fears over the economy have caused a 6.5 per cent fall in share flecting unusually high aircraft a 6.5 per cent fall in share prices over the past week.

Sir Donald Tsang, the Financial Secretary, was forced finally to admit that his 3.5 per | £715m in April from £1bn the cent growth target for the year was unattainable. Describing the present situation as "an unprecedented economic upheaval", Sir Donald said he was no longer able to provide an eco-

nomic forecast for the full year. However, the consensus of most private sector forecasts is for flat, or at best marginal, economic growth, most of which is expected in the last quarter. A sharp decline in tourism and much reduced consumer and capital spending were cited as reasons for the economy edging into recession.

In Japan, where bad news has flowed freely for some time, the announcement of a 4.1 per cent unemployment level and the market's dispatch of the yen to an exchange rate of 139.23 against the US dollar, barely shook the stock market, where prices fell less than 1 per cent.

The steady fall of the yen has caused the Japanese currency to crash through successive barriers where support was expected. Intervention by the Bank of Japan to prop up the yen bas proved ineffective in the past. US support may now come into play. Yesterday Thomas Folcy, the US ambassador in Tokyo, said Washington was closely watching the rapidly rising US-Japan trade imbalance.

Legislators in Tokyo yesterday passed a package of measures to cut income taxes and boost public spending, primarily aimed at lifting domestic consumption off the floor.

Growth worsens in exports at a halt

By Diane Coyle

THE GROWTH in exports has stopped, official figures showed yesterday. The news followed a warning on Thursday from the Confederation of British Industry that new export orders had fallen to a 15-year low as a result of the strong

Although the latest headline figures for the deficit in trade in goods showed an improvement, thanks in large part to oil and erratic items, the shortfall in the first quarter of this year was the biggest for nearly eight

The gap between the value of goods exports and imports in January-March was £3.2bn, up from £2bn in the final quarter of last year. March's deficit of £1.5bn was about £600m bet-

The deficit with non-EU countries alone dipped to because of erratic items; but had risen to £3.4bn in the first quarter from just under £3hn. Exports to the most troubled Asian economies once again fell in April, and are running well below last year's levels.

Underlying export volumes fell by 0.4 per cent in the first quarter, compared to a 0.9 per cent drop in import volumes. The Office for National Statistics said trends in both were

Most City analysts are now gloomy about Britain's trade prospects despite the recent dip in the pound.

Kevin Darlington, an economist at ABN-Amro, said the painful cuts exporters have made in profit margins had not been enough to preserve market share. Export prices have fallen just 7 per cent in two years while the pound has climbed by more than 25 per cent. "Exporters are pricing them-

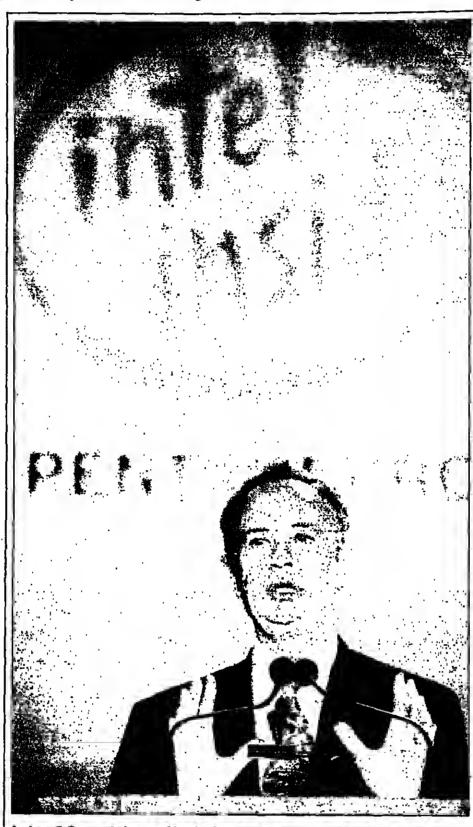
selves out of export markets and it comes as no surprise, therefore, to see a growing effect on trade volumes," he said. Terry Cook, director of the

North West Chambers of Commerce, said local manufacturers had cut their profit margins in a hid to keep market share.

"Those companies which have always competed on price are particularly vulnerable now. Those competing on quality have been able to continue that for some time, but their advantage is starting to be eroded too," he said.

Industrialists hope that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will once again vote against an increase in interest rates after its meeting next week. The pound has fallen more than 5 per cent in value from its peak in early April, hat this welcome slide has come to a temporary

Sterling ended nearly a fennig higher at just under DM2.91 yesterday. Its index against a range of currencies was up 0.3 at 103.6.



Andrew 5 Grove, chairman of Intel, whose processors control 80 per cent of PCs

Intel facing monopoly abuse charge

By Andrew Marshall in Washington

US competition authorities were yesterday preparing an anti-trust action against the chip-maker Intel. It is the sec-ond high-profile move against the companies which dominate global markets for hightechnology equipment.

The Federal Trade Commission is likely to charge Intel with abusing its near-monopoly power in the microprocessor market, by refusing to sbare information about its products with competitors or with companies that they have a problem with, reports said. Intel makes the microprocessors that control more than 80 per cent of personal computers, producing the 286, 386 and 486 (the x86 series) and the Pentium processor. In particular, it has a near-monopoly of chips that will run Microsoft's Windows NT.

The move against Intel coincides with anti-trust suits against Microsoft, the dominant producer of software for personal computers, though it is not directly related. The suit against Microsoft is spearheaded by the Justice department and 20 US states; the FTC moves may reflect something of a turf war, with the FTC-a federal agency - intent on staking out its claim to the computer market against the Department of Justice, a government department.

Just last month, a judge in Alabama said that Intel had refused to share information with

the computer maker Intergraph, threatening its business. Intel is said to have carried out similar measures against computer maker Digital Equipment Corporation. It is also accused of having changed the design of its chips so that they will only fit certain sockets. "This 'closed architecture' for practical purposes allows Intel, by exercising its intellectual property rights ... to wield absolute power over who will and who will not be allowed in that part of the high-end computer industry that is hased on the 'x86' architecture," ruled a US

district judge.
The design change is seen as being aimed its chief competitors, AMD and National Semiconductor, by encouraging computer makers to stick with one supplier.

Intel does not dispute that it limits information-sharing, hut it claims that it is doing nothing illegal. The FTC's case is likely to rest on Intel's monopoly position, which, it will claim, puts its actions in a different category from other manufacturers. The FTC is still preparing its case, and it is possible that action could be headed off hy a deal with Intel.

Lawyers and officials in Washington caution against seeing the Intel and Microsoft cases as evidence of a renewed appetite for "trust-busting". They say that both cases are unrelated, with the Microsoft case by far the more important. Even there, they say, it is hard to see a pattern developing of

UBS denies '\$700m loss' claim Yorkshire Water disappoints

By Lea Paterson

UBS yesterday issued a categorical denial of an article in The Economist which alleged that the Swiss bank incurred losses of up to \$700m (£425m) at its Singapore branch due to "poor risk control". The Economist alleged that

Lim Ho Kee, head of the Singapore branch, was allowed to run his office as a quasi-independent entity. As a result, James Loh, Mr Lim's righthand man, was "not monitored by UBS's central risk-management department". Mr Loh is alleged to have huilt up substantial positions in foreign exchange, interest rates and equities.

UBS insiders told The In-

dependent that Mr Lim was "a bit of a maverick" who, unlike most other regional heads, "was never seen in the London office".

It is not the first time the bank - which yesterday defended its risk management procedures - has faced allegations of lax credit control. Earlier this year, amid intense media speculation, the bank admitted it lost almost £200m on equity derivative and proprietary equity trading during 1997.

The bank's global equities derivatives (GED) group again alleged to have been a 'quasi-independent entity" was at the root of these particular trading difficulties. The precise amount lost by the GED group has never been disclosed, although it has been variously estimated at between \$440m and \$700m.

In December, when UBS announced it was to merge with rival SBC, some commentators speculated that UBS's equity derivative losses allowed SBC to take the upper hand in the deal.

Both banks have denied the losses impacted upon the merger in any way, and Marcet Ospel, SBC's chief executive and chief executive-designate of the new hank, recently said he knew of the losses before the merger was announced.

"It would be interesting to know whether Mr Ospel was aware of the situation in Singapore too," remarked one UBS source. In a statement yesterday,

UBS said it had "always been fully committed to high standards in all areas of its business.

especially in its risk-management process". The bank went on: "UBS rejects this false reporting which seriously hurts its reputation. In addition, the report negatively affects the reputation of the bank's key professionals in Singapore and

clscwhere." The bank said its Singapore branch reported a profit after tax of S\$29m (£11m) in 1997. It admitted that "as a consequence of the worsening environment in Asia in the first months of 1998, provisions for credit risks have been increased. However, the operating profit of the region

with dividend-limit 'gesture'

By Andrew Verity

YORKSHIRE Water yesterday produced a dividend payment which disappointed even the most pessimistic of shareholders, leading some to believe it was trying to make a political gesture.

The shares fell by 17 points to 461.5p, down 3 per cent, after it said it would only pay 20.35p per share. City analysts had expected at least 20.5p. Most had hoped for 21p or more.

Despite a fall in profits to £216m from £206m, the City was expecting a boost in divipanies in the sector, Anglian continues to be satisfactory". Water boosted dividends by 13

per cent this week, while South West Water produced a 12 per cent dividend.

Kevin Bond, managing director, said the company was seeking to tighten its balance sheet. "We're very conscious of the fact that we're going to have a significant number of commitment in capital spend between 2000 and 2005," he said.

But the dividend was interpreted by some in the City as a political gesture towards lan Byatt, director of Ofwat, the water regulator. One analyst said: "They are

trying to impress the regulator

and there is no point in it. The

regulator will do what he wants

tu do anyway. It is naive on their

TOURIST RATES

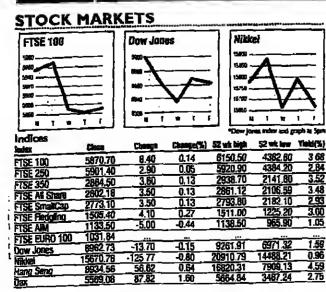
part to think that the regulator will be affected." Yorkshire Water has struggled to find favour with Ofwat

since 1995, when one of the rainiest counties in the country found itself short of water. The company was forced to

invest in infrastructure and was hit by a penal pricing regime. Unlike rival companies, it cannot raise prices up to inflation plus 2.5 per cent. Yorkshire can raise them only as high as the retail price index. "It is definitely a political

move. The trouble is, politicians don't understand dividends, they only understand prices and headline profits," said one

Yesterday in the markets



US long bond

CURRENCIES DM/E OTHER INDICATORS source: Bloomberg

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0.6182 Mexican (nuevo peso) 12.77 Netherlands (quilders) 3.1660 2.9164 Norway (krone) 11.98 Portugal (escudos 285,56 Saudi Arabia (riais 5.9241 2.5752 238.40 South Africa (rands) 8.1259 12.41 2.3397 Thailand (baltis) 58.71 Turkey (Brasi) 401455 1.5881 Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

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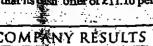
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MICHAEL HARRISON ON THE ETHICS OF DEALS IN JAKARTA AND THE PREDICAMENT OF THE

MULTI-UTILITIES .

All roads led to Suharto for Indonesian contracts

DISCREDITED regime awards Trafalgar House £385m toll road contract. The people rise up and discredited regime is removed from power. Question mark over future of toll road project. No, we are not talking about the Birmingham Northern Relief Road (although we just as easily could be). The above scenario actually relates, unsurprisingly, to Indonesia, where a consortium involving Trafalgar (now part of the Norwegian group Kvaerner) and a company controlled by former President Subartu's eldest daughter may forfeit the concession to build a 59km toll road

As with many of the "UK firm set to lose Indonesian order" stories that are now emerging from Jakarta, the fog of war, or at least civil uprising, has served to cloud the picture. Trafalgar, for what it is worth, says it shelved the project nine months ago and declared "force majeure" after deciding that the road could not be financed if its costs were to be in dollars and revenues in the (plunging) local currency.

Indonesian officials, oo the other hand, say they lost patience with Trafalgar, which was supposed to have huilt the first stage of the road by now, and are determined to re-issue the concession.

It is a similar picture of coofusion in in danger of losing a £1hn contract to build

region says the cootract has been put under review. PowerGen says it is 80 per ecot complete and remains on course to be commissioned ahead of schedule next year.

The discrepancies arise, in part, because no one in Iodonesia knows for sure what is going to happen. After living under ooc-man rule for 33 years, local officials are testing out the perimeters of their newfound powers for the first time. Meanwhile in Jakarta itself, an awful lot of post-Soharto rationalisation is going on. The government officers who now solemnly swear to withdraw any contracts that are tainted with nepotism or corruption are the same ones who awarded them in the

Trafalgar and PowerGen are not alone. A large number of other UK companies, ranging from British Aerospace, Rolls-Royce and Thames Water to BP, Rio Tinto and United Biscuits, have interests in Indonesia. Does the purge now taking place there matter to them? And could they have done anything to avoid the situation in the first instance? The unswer to the first is a qualified yes. The answer to the second is a qualified no.

The headline numbers sound hig but the actual exposure of British companies East Java, where PowerGeo is said to be is much smaller. For instance PowerGen's equity investment in the Paiton 2 power

a coal-fired station. The governor of the station in East Jarva so far is a modest £37m since the project is 80 per cent debtfinanced. Similarly, Trafalgar's direct financial liabilities are small, even though the revenues it would forgo if the concession is withdrawn would be more significant.

Thames' contract to provide water supplies for one half of Jakarta, now also suspended because of its Subarto links, could generate £225m in revenues over the next 25 years. But its maximum exposure is \$80m, not all of which has yet been

In the case of both Thames and United Utilities, it is worth noting that business misjudgements have cost them far more than political misjudgements. Two years ago Thames wrote off £95m on ill-fated overseas expansioo programmes while United Utilities has lost £90m in the sewers beneath Bangkuk.

Could those companies that now risk losing their Indonesian contracts have . avoided getting into this positioo? The short answer is on. As one British executive wearily explained, tendering for any large project in Jakarta automatically meant giving Suharto, or one of his extended family, a piece of the action.

Of course, corporate Britain could have pursued an ethical business policy, which might have led to it boycotting Indone-

sia. But where was the pressure for that? Certainly not from the Government, whose ethical arms policy is in some disarray and which has been strangely silent this week oo this issue of our commercial links to Indonesia. That just leaves shareholder pressure but how often do ethics get in the way of good business?

Re-inventing the water company

THIS WILL come as a shock to most domestic gas, electricity, telephone and water customers but, whisper it softly, they may actually be getting a better deal out of the so-called "multi-utilities" than shareholders. This is the drift of a joint paper published yesterday by the various utility regulators. They have concluded not only that there are benefits to be had from being customers of these many-headed beasts but that further regulation to protect the consumer is unnecessary.

As if to reinforce the point, their re-port coincided with a fall in profits at Yorkshire Water and a lower-than-expected dividend payout. Proof, if it were needed, that Yorkshire is now doing to investors what it used to do routinely to its customers.

It is true that the multi-utilities - United Utilities, Hyder and Scottish Power - have underperformed the market. But fear not, they are fighting back on hehalf of their shareholders. They have accepted the harsh fact that no matter how many different services can be crammed down one pipe, at the end of the day, the business will remain a boring old utility and will attract a stock market rating to match.

In an attempt to overcome this they are re-inventing themselves as go-go high-technology providers or simply trying to conceal their true ideotity. Thus United Utilities (North West Water and Norweb) is considering floating off its telecoms arm, which has invented a technique for linking customers to the Internet through the electricity socket. South West Water, meanwhile, has decided to rename itself Pennon Group.

The company used to be associated with the highest water charges in the land, contaminated supplies and dirty beaches. From now on it hopes to become as well known for being "a group of related environmental companies operating in the fields of waste management, environmeotal instrumentation and construction services".

The theory is that all utilities, not just the multi-utilities, are due for a rerating. Hope springs eternal.

ING Barings chief quits after only five months

THE CHIEF executive of ING Barings, the investment banking arm of Dutch financial services group ING, quit yesterday after only five months in the job. The bank, which has been hit by recent high-level defections from its corporate finance department, said ING chairman Marinus Minderhoud would take over responsibility for the investment bank until a replacement was found for Arjun Mathrani, who joined from Chase Manhattan.

Banking sources said Mr Mathrani's departure was described in an internal staff memo from Mr Minderhoud as the result of Mr Mathrani's differing views 00 "certain management issues including matters relating to the organisatioo of our investment banking activities in Western Europe". The sources said the resignation underlined questions over the direction of ING's investment banking operation, whose future has been the subject of media speculation.

Fullers beer sales up 12%

FULLER, Smith & Turner, the brewing group, yesterday said beer sales had jumped by 12 per cent in the year to 28 March. After a disappointing start, beer sales rose to 153,000 barrels while sales of its leading London Pride brand jumped by 14 per cent. The company said it had been hit by poor weather in April but added "May was kinder to us". Profits rose by 7.9 per cent to £11.9m.

New mortgages double

BRITAIN'S banks have seen demand for new mortgages more than double in the last two months, according to figures from the British Bankers' Association. Net lending rose to £797m in April, up from £276m in February. While much of the increase was seasonal, the BBA said demand was oow picking up. However, it said there was "an element of re-mortgaging churn in the housing market". Re-mortgages made up a quarter of all oew loans.

Accounting's big name

THE ACCOUNTING giants Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand have said they would be called "PricewaterhouseCoopers" when they merge. The groups said in a statement yesterday that the new came would come into effect from the beginning of July. PW and Coopers were given final regulatory clearance for their merger by the European Commission on 20 May. The merged group will be the world's largest accounting and consulting firm.

investment arm sold

THE 15th largest bank in America, BankBoston, yesterday announced that it had agreed to buy BankAmerica's investment banking arm, Robertsoo Stephens, for a total of \$800m. Robertson Stephens put itself on the block after BankAmerica agreed to merge with NationsBank earlier this year. BankBoston, which has been beefing up its underwriting and investment banking operations, said it would pay \$400m in cash, an additional \$300m over four years, and \$100m of stock options granted at market price. The deal's aftertax value currently is about \$550m, it said.

Fire costs Boots £30m

BOOTS will reveal oext week that sales at its Boots the Chemists stores were affected by a serious fire at a key warehouse in the run-up to the Christmas trading period last year. The October fire near the group's head office in Nottingham, destroyed a warehouse the size of five football pitches whick was carrying 12,500 lines of stock. Boots is re-building the warehouse at a cost of £30m. This sum is insured but the disruption affected sales at Boots. Boots reports is full year results next Thursday and is expected to show pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits of around £550m up from £536m in the previous year.

More backs Clear deal

THE COARD of the street advertising firm More Group said it was recommending its shareholders accept an offer to buy the company from Texas-based Clear Channel Communications Inc. Clear Channel said in the same statement that its dish offer of £11.10 per share will oot be increased.

COMPENI	KESUL	13		
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS .	Dividend
Mater Maler (Major, (F)	53.95m (B1.18m)	15.22m (13.90m)	182.0p (142.0p)57.0p (52.0p)
afor Santh& Damer *(P)	114.28m (102.1m)11.87m (11.01m)	35.44p (30.10p)	£1.35p(10.03p)
(alsoy industries(i) -	33.7m (27,6m)	1,363m (1,082m)		
Cilcuit Holdings 12	5.1m (4.1m)		-0.01p.(-0.85p)	
ICO (I)	28.3m (28,3m)	0.215m (0.571m)		4.0p (4.95p)
lesshak (F)	4.2m (4.7m)	0.21 tm (0.326m)	4.1p (4.3p)	1.5p (1.5p)
EC Group (1)	28.0m (41.2m)	-Q.4m (1.9m)	1.62p (7.48p)	2.25p (2.25p)
Titlers Group(!)	2.3m (2.4m)	-0.467m (-0.475m)	-Q.4p (-Q.4p)	nii
britabira Water (F)	535.4m (522.8m)	205.6m (215.8m)	11.4p (45.1p)	20.35p (18.5p)
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HSBC chairman bows out in style

SIR William Purves bowed out as chairman of HSBC yesterday with an upbeat trading statement, delivered to shareholders at the bank's annual general meeting.

"Performance in the first quarter of this year was in line with our plan, with some entities slightly ahead of expectations", Sir William said. However, the HSBC chief admitted that the Asian crisis could still damage the group's results.

"Falloot from the economic downturn in Asia continoes to emerge," Sir William told shareholders.

Shares in HSBC, owner of Midland Bank, have taken a pounding in recent days in the face of renewed turbulence in the Asian region. Yesterday though, the bank's shares fared better, closing up 57p at 1,600p. HSBC is also listed in Hong Kong and does much of its business in

Sir William - who has been with HSBC for 44 years - said the bank had yet to use any of the provisions it had made against potential bad debts in Asia.



Sir William Purves (centre), the outgoing chairman who leaves after 44 years with HSBC

Brewin buys Wise for £24m

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

THE stockhroking group Brewin Dolphin yesterday completed its £24m purchase of Wise Speke, the private client broker, from the insurance agency Ockham Holdings.

Brewin Dolphin claimed the deal would make it the secood-largest private clieot stockbroker in the country after Greig Middletoo with

64,000 clients and £12bu under June and said the acquisition management. It said the acquisitioo would also strengthen its geographic coverage, particularly in the North of England. Wise Speke is hased in Newcastle.

The deal is being financed by a placing and open offer of 4 for 13 shares at 368p, raising £24.5m oet of expenses.

Brewin Dolphin forecast it should make a pre-tax profit of £5.75m in the six months to 26

would enhance its earnings per share in the first full year of Brewin said it might make a deferred performance relat-

ed allocation of shares with a value of up to £11m to Wise Speke's management. Wise Speke has 19,000

clieot accounts and has £2.5bn under management. The busioess recorded a pre-tax profit of £3.4m last year including a

£1 m exceptional gain from disposals. Net assets were £6.8m. Ockham's strategy is to spe-

cialise in non-standard motor insurance in Britain. It will use the proceeds of the sale to fund further underwriting of its Highway motor insurance busi-

Ockham said yesterday that it intends to pay an interim dividend of 1.6p for the six months to 30 June. Its shares closed 9p

Anger as Unigate's Hillsdown deal fails

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

UNIGATE'S £1.6bn bid for Hillsdown Holdings collapsed in a welter of recriminations yesterday after the dairy group dramatically walked away from the deal at the last minute.

Unigate claimed it had withdrawn its offer after looking at additional information about Hillsdown's trading performance. "We were not able to support Hillsdown's views of its prospects," it said.

Hillsdown dismissed the claims, saying the information was not materially different from its trading statement to shareholders at its annual meeting earlier this month. It claimed Unigate had got cold feet after taking calls from institutional investors worried about the effects of the deal of the share price. It further hinted at a boardroom split at Unigate with the chairman, Ian Martin, keen on the deal but the chief executive, Sir Ross Buckland, cooler.

According to Hillsdown the talks were proceeding well late into the night at Lazards, Unigate's financial advisers. The talks took place mainly between Sir John Nott and Michael Teacher from Hillsdown and Ian Martin and John Worby, Unigate's chairman and finance director respectively.

Sir Ross arrived later to take part in the talks for the first time. Hillsdown claims that though he appeared satisfied, the Unigate group suddenly broke off for a meeting in a separate room. After two hours they emerged at 1.30am to say the deal was off.

Hillsdown called Unigate's approach to the bid "shambolic". A spokesman added: "This

is the fourth time since last August that Unigate has made an approach to Hillsdown. I don't

Unigate denied there was a split. "The board was united going into this and united coming out," it said, Unigate did oot rule out coming back but indicated that it would be at a lot less than 217p per share.

think they will be coming back."

Unigate's institutional investors were not unhappy about the deal's collapse. One said: There was a degree of uncertainty as to whether this deal could stake up for Unigate as this price."

David Laing, analyst at Hendersoo Crosthwaite, said: "You felt there wasn't much value in it for Unigate shareholders at that price. Now Unigate has had a bit of a revolt from its sharebolders and Hillsdown has to go back to the drawing board."

Investors were intrigued by the behaviour of Unigate's team. "Ian Martin comes from Grand Metropolitan so he has a deal-making background," one said. "But as chairman his job is to be running the board. not getting involved in things like this. It makes you wonder about his role."

Another said: "There is no shame in walking away from a deal if you don't think it is right. Unigate's shares had lost al-

most 100p since oews of the deal leaked. They bounced 28.5p to 665p yesterday, reflecting relief that it was dead.

Hillsdown shares fell 23.5p to 183p. The company will now press ahead with its hreak-up plan that will see shareholders receive shares in three separate quoted companies. The chilled foods and house-building divisions will be floated off while the furniture husiness will be

Virgin float depends on Charity hospitals to sue over track upgrade ruling

cide oo a floatatioo within weeks, it said yesterday -- as soon as the rail regulator clears its plans for upgrading the West Coast Main Line.

The planned upgrade of the tracks, signalling and rolling stock, which will cost billions of pounds, is being examined by the regulator.

Richard Branson, owner of Virgin Group which owns 41 per cent of Virgin Rail, said: The sign-off of the opgrade has to be dooe before any announcement. We have to signoff the deals and they have to be in place first. A few ticks are needed and then we are ready

to go."

VIRGIN RAIL expects to de- added that the rail regulator could make a final decision oo the rail upgrade "within a few weeks" That will free Virgin to

make its float decision, but it refused to elaborate. The market expected a float in June, but this timetable is now certain to slip to later in the sum-

If Virgin goes ahead with the float, industry sources indicated could be worth £250m.

Other shareholders in Virgin rail include IP Morgan and Bankers Trust. Virgin refused to comment oo whether it was considering a retail offering, but it said it was confident it could secure backing if One company source later the float went ahead.

PPP chief's remarks on safety

By Andrew Verity

CHARITY hospitals are set to hring a libel action against PPP, Britain's second largest health insurer, over what they claim are defamatory comments made by its chief exec-

The Federation of Charity Hospitals yesterday said it was make the choice." consulting its lawyers over remarks by Peter Owen, chief executive of PPP, that allegedly implied some of its members' hospitals were unsafe. Mr Owen was asked by a

policyholder at PPP's AGM to were unsafe. say how he decided which hos-

pitals would be ditched from its list of care providers.

Mr Oweo replied: "There is a very rigorous process that is gone through with all of the hospitals in all the areas where we ascertain the levels of safety at the hospital and the range of services they can provide, and it is oo that basis that we

The federation, which represents 65 per cent of bospitals in the charity sector, said the implication of the remarks was that member hospitals which had been de-listed by PPP

Gerald Pilkington, chief ex-

ecutive of the federation, said: This is a shocking statement and was made to a subscribers' meeting where the public were present. We have no doubt

this is defamatory about our

members and we will take

whatever steps are necessary."

In the last two years, tension has riseo between private medical insurers and the hospitals they use. The insurers are desperate to cut costs in order to contain a rise in premiums of 3.5 per cent a year above in-

flatioo. Insurers such as PPP have introduced "oetwork initiathe insurer will only cover treatment at a specially selected network of private hospitals. Excluded hospitals face the prospect of losing a large chunk of their annual income.

John Neville, a spokesman for PPP, declined to comment oo the threat of a libel actioo. But he said the network initiatives were merely iotroducing market discipline to private

"Our initiatives address the serious over-capacity of private hospitals which means the charges are unnaturally high because they are subsidising untives". Under these schemes, occupied beds," he said.

Where heaven and earth collide



Iona: As the tiny Scottish island celebrates another hallowed date in its sacred calendar. is it at risk of becoming a spiritual theme park for middle-class seekers of sanctuary?

EFFORT is the missing co-efficient in most equations about modern travelling. A few weeks ago, I overheard a chap in a travel agent booking a lastminute holiday. The options set out before him were Crete, Minorca or the Amalfi coast. They were three very different countries and yet the holiday offered in each was essentially the same package.

More than that, the journey to each - Gatwick, a two-hour flight, a 40-minute drive to the apartment allocated on arrival - was identical. I thought of the last week as I travelled to the Hebridean island of Iona. The journey there - involving two trains, a ferry, a bus, another ferry, with the last stage on foot - was, by contrast, a defining process in itself.

I had boarded the sleeper amid

Euston's metropolitan midnight bustle and wokeo in Scotland. Over hreakfast, the human geography of the Clyde slipped by the window, with its factories, houses, and highrises set out across the estuary.

Next, the train rocked through woods in which dusty carpets of bluebells lay between the hirches. It halted at small stations with long names, which required no pronunciation since no one alighted and few climbed aboard.

The ferry crossing from Oban, and theo the bus across the wide moorlands of Mull served only to heighten the gradual sense of estrangement from the world of the everyday. So that by the time the boat lurched

Sound of Iona, I was receptive to the idea that I was arriving at a place on the edge - a place where, as George MacLeod put it, the veil between

heaven and earth was particularly thin. George MacLeod, or Lord MacLeod of Fuinary as he later became, was the man who in 1938 founded the Iona Community, which next week celebrates its 60th anniversary. It was not, of course, this which gave the place its reputation as one of the most sacred places in the British Isles.

That began in 563AD when a princely Irish monk named Columba landed on Iona and founded the monastery from which Christianity spread throughout Britain long before Augustine made serious inroads out of Canterbury.

In the intervening centuries, the windswept island has been hallowed by the burial of the medieval kings of Norway, Ireland and Scotland. Then, in the 12th century, Reginald, Lord of the Isles, invited the Benedictines to establish the abbey whose strong walls gave refuge to the poor and the hrokeo for centuries.

It was their ruined buildings which MacLeod and his fellows rebuilt as a place of quiet in which to reinvigorate themselves for the struggles of life in inner-city Glasgow.

Today, there is a deep irony about this tiny island, barely three miles long, with untamed moodand around which its population of 92 work at their crofts. For, this sanc-



About a quarter of a million people visited Iona Abbey (above) last year. Tourism is taking its toll

into silence now receives visitors in huge numbers, who by their very

only jetty and the abbey is packed with a steady stream of day-trippers, Last year, 200,000 people visited it, either for the 1400th anniversary of St Columba's death or to see the grave of John Smith, the former Labour leader who lies buried only feet from the spot where Macbeth and Duncan are said to be interred.

have come to seek. Most days out-

side winter, the road between the

The flow of visitors was such that his widow recently agreed to the swivelling of the massive granite stone - which bears Burns's words "an honest man's the noblest work of God" - because the graves of re- Scottish! You see people actually across the swift-running tides of the tuary at the end of the long journey cently buried local people were be-hugging the stones."

ing badly trampled by visitors trying to read the epitaph. presence jeopardise what it is they

"We don't really understand what brings them all," said the Abbey's warden, Peter Millar, a of their lives and just expect that Church of Scotland minister. "Is it the search for roots, expressed in the sacred? Is it a revolt against the ease and comfort of modern life? We know so many people don't want to live destructively and yet feel trapped within a system which gives them little choices beyond 12 kinds of breakfast pereal at Sainsbury's.

"Yet yoo'd be amazed at the number of people who get off that ferry and say: 'I feel, at last, I am at home.' What oo earth do they mean? Many of them area't even

It even affects many who do oot come. "They write a letter just addressed to Iona Abbey, Scotland," he added, "filled with all the pain someone will open it and somehow deal with it. "So, why are people flooding to Iona at a time when the mainstream churches are

experiencing a crisis of decline? Cynics dismiss it as merely spiritual tourism for the middle-class seeker after personal fulfilment. And, certainly, there is a lot of romantic tosh talked and writteo about the vogue for Celtic spirituality. But the world of Columba did seem to embody an attitude to life whose loss the modern world is beginning to lameot. ng to lameot.

It was a religion of myth and

gether a team of half a dozen unemployed craftsmen and six trainee ministers whom he forced to act as labourers to the workers. It was a modern attempt to recreate the Columban unity of worship and work, church and industry, spiritual and material. You can, however, go too far in connecting God with Mammon. As

Abbey began when he brought to-

did the pilgrim who arrived last month in this place of penitence and humility in that ultimate symbol of privilege and power, a helicopter.

"If it was an hour from Birmingham probably no one would come," said Peter Millar, whose speech patterns are as wild as his hair. "The Celtic world was charged with energy but it was a hard world. Yet, the poor of Glasgow can't even af-ford the train fare here. And we're not here to provide a spirituality to make people more comfortable in

Knightsbridge."
But the greatest irony of Iona is that when the visitors arrive at the Abbey to stay as week-long guests, they discover that the Iona Community does oot live there at all. It is not a monastic community but rather a dispersed one.

Its 220 members and 1,600 associates are bound together by a fivefold rule of daily prayer and mutual accountability oo how they spend their time and income. But they live throughout Britain, and throughout the world, working largely in disadvantaged inner-city communities, visiting Iona only for retreats. Only a few live in the abbey to head a staff of long-term volunteers who maintain the rbythm of prayer and work in which the visitors join.

"The challenge," said the community's leader, Norman Shanks, ponderiog the 60th anniversary, "is to respond to the expansion [in numbers] without losing integrity." To avoid the danger of Iooa becoming a theme park of privatised, middleclass spirituality, the community must cling to MacLeod's vision that it will only succeed if it energises its. visitors to go back to the everyday world to bring about change.

"Iona needs to become more prophetic and more radical," according to Millar. And that, of course, may put the helicopters off altogether. Or make their occupants come the hard way. And linger longer.

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.



An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may

great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who

sympathetic as your family. We're also

The Samaritans

TOMORROW IN THE SEVEN-SECTION

ing was changed.

Photograph: Hamish Campbell

poetry rather than theology. Its

visioo was communal rather than

hierarchical. It believed in the whole-

ness and goodness of the world, in

contrast to the idea that the world of

matter was something to be reject-

ed in preference to the spiritual. All

of which chimes in with the ecolog-

ical concerns of today and our grow-

ing sense that science and rationalism

tween the sacred and the secular was

dissolved - something George

MacLeod re-learned six decades

back. In Govan, in the depressed

1930s, he concluded that priests.

would never understand their

parishiooers until their way of train-

The rebuilding of the Benedictine

Above all, the boundary be-

cannot provide all the answers.



A baby in the freezer ...

Can science stop the biological clock

■ Revealed – the woman who is Bridget Jones

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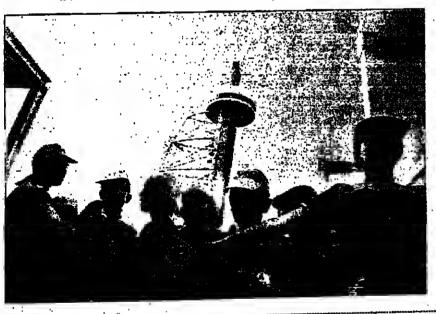
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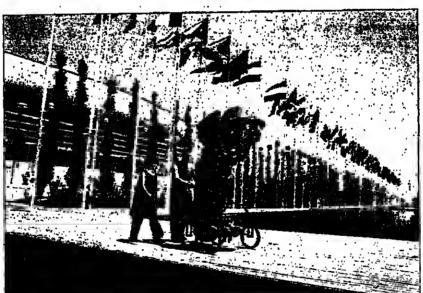
TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT

Saturday 30 May 1998



PICTURES OF THE WEEK Scenes from Expo 1998. The last world exhibition of this century is taking place in Lisbon and will run until 30 September. It celebrates the UN's Year of Oceans and coincides with the 500th anniversary of Vasco da PICTURES OF THE WEEK Scenes from Expo 1998. The last world exhibition of this century is taking place in Lisbon and will run until 30 September. It celebrates the UN's Year of Oceans and coincides with the 500th anniversary of Vasco da PICTURES OF THE WEEK Scenes from Expo 1998. The last world exhibition of this century is taking place in Lisbon and will run until 30 September. It celebrates the UN's Year of Oceans and coincides with the 500th anniversary of Vasco da PICTURES OF THE WEEK Scenes from Expo 1998. The last world exhibition of this century is taking place in Lisbon and will run until 30 September. It celebrates the UN's Year of Oceans and coincides with the 500th anniversary of Vasco da PICTURES OF THE WEEK Scenes from Expo 1998. The last world exhibition of this century is taking place in Lisbon and will run until 30 September. It celebrates the UN's Year of Oceans and coincides with the 500th anniversary of Vasco da PICTURES OF THE WEEK Scenes from Expo 1998. The last world exhibition of this century is taking place in Lisbon and will run until 30 September. It celebrates the UN's Year of Oceans and coincides with the 500th anniversary of Vasco da PICTURES OF THE WEEK Scenes from Expo 1998. The last world exhibition of this century is taking place in Lisbon and will run until 30 September. It celebrates the UN's Year of Oceans and coincides with the 500th anniversary of Vasco da PICTURES OF THE WEEK Scenes from Expo 1998. The last world exhibition of this century is taking place in Lisbon and will run until 30 September. It celebrates the UN's Year of Oceans and Coincides with the 500th anniversary of Vasco da PICTURES OF THE WEEK Scenes from Expo 1998. The last world exhibition of this place in Lisbon and Coincides with the 500th anniversary of Vasco da PICTURES OF





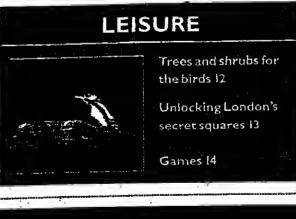


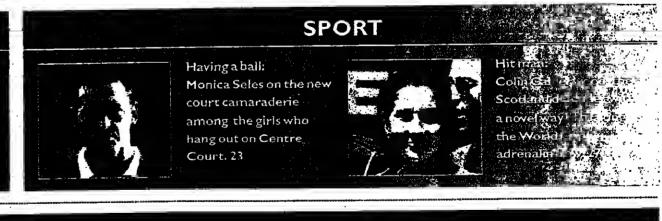
Music for the spirit in Morocco 2 Gdansk: Poland's city of nostalgia 6 Dream islands of Croatia 7

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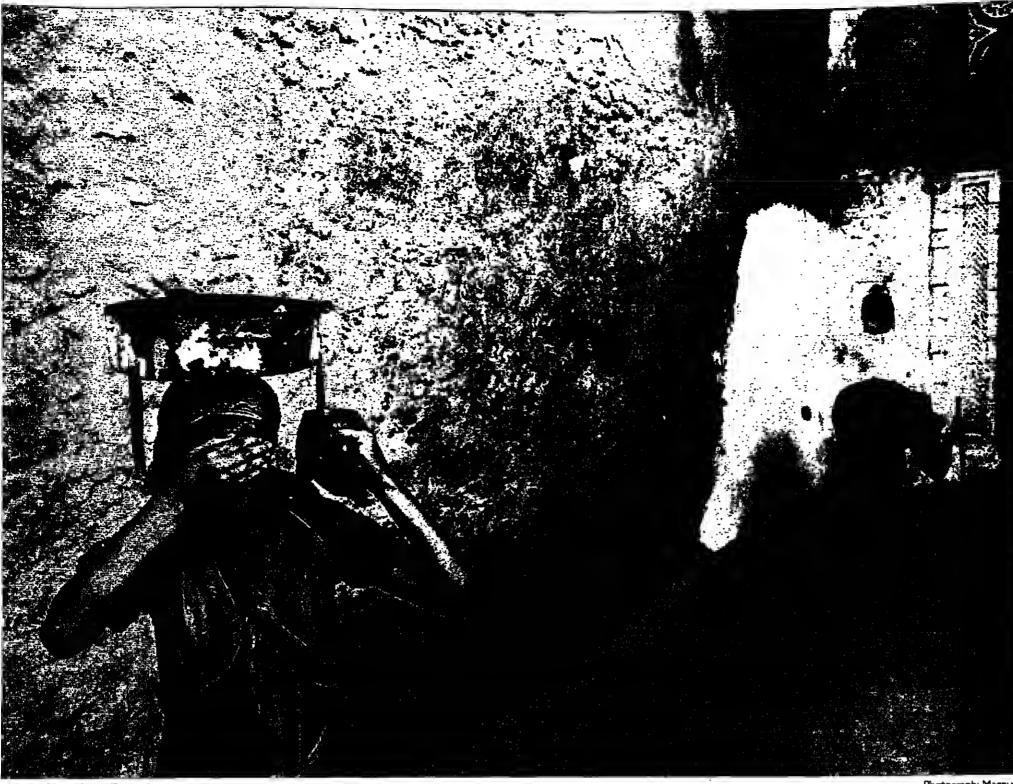
In search of a brave new world, they found a great new recipe for chicken!

CA) Jh. COUNTRY. There's more to Cs, undistory than String Gumbb and according 8. Pete McCarthy lovestigates one of the more snameful episopec in Britain's history and how modern day Acadrens and Cojunt are still coming to terms with it Sunday afternoons from 31 May, 12.84 + 12.36.

BBC RADIO 4 92-95 th & 198. w

YOU'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY

The original trance-dance



Photograph: Magnum

After a long, dusty drive from concrete Agadir, Essaouira appears in the distance like a shimmering citadel. Hippies, tourists, surfers, refugees and loners have long found sanctuary in this southern Moroccan town, far from the hassle of the northern cities. Even before its heyday as a trading port in the 18th century, sub-Saharan Africans shipped up here, seeking the produce of Europe in exchange for gold, salt, ostrich feathers - and slaves, who hrought their own and only precious commodity, Gnaoua.

Like the blues, the music of Gnaoua evolved from rhythms beat out to ease the suffering of the soul. It is still chiefly concerned with the healing of spiritual wounds, using trance, prayer, possession, exorcism and dervish-like dancing, with music made from instruments unique to the tradition: the guenbri, a long-necked three cord lute, the grageb, metal castanets, and ganga drums.

Gnanua took root in this area of Morocco, and its rituals call on pagan deities or mlouk, as well as honouring Islamic saints, claiming spiritual descent from Sidna Bilal, Mohammed's son-in-law, who became the Prophet's first muezin.

With the rise of World Music, Gnaoua is fast gaining recognition outside Africa, and this year Essaouira is hosting the first ever international festival of Gnaoua, hilled as the original trance-dance

The three-day festival will take place on 5, 6 and 7 June, with six concerts planned. Five of the most famous Gnaoua groups will be in action, including pany returns to the secular world.

This week, a spiritual blues festival begins at Essaouira in southern Morocco. By Lulu Norman

Amida Boussou, Abdeslam Allikane, and Mahmoud Guinea (who played with Sautana in Casabianca). Bakboh from Marrakesh and Hassan Hakmoun, signed to Rectworld. Also playing will be Berber musicians called Gauga, allied to Gnaoua. These mu-The festival will also include a conference on the culture of Gnaoua, and the highlight will be the sacred night of the lila or derdeba.

The lila is a night of ritual possession and divination. Amid prayer and incantation, ritual dance and handclapping, 40 or so spirits and ancestors are invoked, roughly corresponding to categories of human sensibilities. Next come the fumigations, the sprinkling with rose and orange blossom water and the musicians play the guenbri, always sensitive to the audience and reactions of those in trance.

Yet this is not just a matter of a medieval Christian-style exorcism, expelling evil spirits from those placed in a trance, but also of inviting possession: the genies dance in their bodies as a healing power, to the music played by the Gnaoua musicians. At dawn, breakfast is taken and the com-

The trances are quite something to behold, from trembling to raving to epileptic-type fits. But clairvoyants and healers are on hand to avert accidents. Unlike Arah society at large, women are not excluded or secondary but central to the proceedsicians are not only masters of their art, but seen as ings; the master of the santuary can be a woman givers of brotherhood and doctors of body and soul. - as are many of the spirits invoked, and the clairwayants are usually women, chosen either by hereditary gift or a revelatory illness; sickness is seen as a sign you have been chosen by a spirit. The devotees and the trancers are often predominantly

Stories abound of Lazarus-like healings, of physical and mental disturbance cured. A Dutch prolessor who had been paralysed for 30 years was found to have nine devils in residence. The healer brought out the oldest devil, reading from the Koran, the other devils having died long ago, and the profes-

Jane Loveless, the festival's organiser, witnessed a healer heating metal in a saucepan, which was then held over the head of an 80-year-old woman who had suffered a paralysing stroke. Water was poured over the metal, the healer then read the forms of the newly solidified metal to the sound of incantations. The woman began to recover immediately and

within three weeks had regained total use of her limbs and senses.

All events at the Gnaoua festival are free, though the official lila is by invitation only. However, there's every chance of spontaneous lilas hreaking out all over town in response to demand. Celebrations have a way of spilling out over the streets, and many events are programmed around town to coincide with the festival, with music, exhibitions and films pertaining to Gnuoua.

Essaouira is a small town that has prospered greatly in the last 10 years and has become a welcoming haven for all, with an easy rhythm of life, European and Berber cafes, fantastic spice markets, good hotels at all prices and various illicit drinking holes. Around the harbour fishermen shake flailing octoous and fresh fish to tempt passers-by, before grilling them for all to eat at trestle tables; behind them the great orange hulls of ships-to-be lie stranded on the port, and beyond that the beach extends as far as

The best airport with regular flights from Britain is Marrakesh, served by Bruish Airways (0345 222111) from Garwick and Royal Air Maroc (0171-439 4361) from Heathrow via Casablanca, For travel out on 4 June and back on 11 June, Hamilton Travel (0171-344 3344) has a fare of £259 on RAM. From Marrakesh, u's about four hours by bus to Essaouira, for £3. For details of the festival contact June Loveless on 00 212 4 47 63 47.

Last weekend's rail bargain - anywhere on Thameslink for £1 - led to thousands of travellers being stranded in Brighton when the trains couldn't take the strain of all the travellers. This week's is excellent value, too, but with luck supply will meet

From Monday, Great North Eastern Raitway (0345 225225) is offering up to 440 miles of rail travel for £12. The After Eight ticket allows unlimited travel on its network between 8.01pm and 3.30am any evening from Monday to Friday. This is enough time for the long haul from Motherwell via Edinburgh, Newcastle and York to London King's Cross - normally £72 one-way.

You must book the ticket by 4pm the day before travel. The offer is valid until 21 August.



Book a boat trip across the Irish Sea by close of business today (4pm), for travel before 16 July, and you get a second ticket for travel in the autumn or next spring. Irish Ferries (0990 171717) is offering the deal on its car ferries on the Holyhead-Dublin and Pembroke-Rosslare routes. A car plus up to five adults travelling to the Irish capital costs £119 for up to five days. The free ticket can't be used over Christmas or New Year.

Staying in Ireland, you don't see as many old Ilyushins at Shannon airport as better be close friends, since the release you used to: a combination of longerrange aircraft and the collapse of the Soviet Union means it is no longer a hig refuelling base for Aeroflot. The slots are filled by new flights from Birmingham and London Stansted, operated by AB Airlines (0800 45 88 111). These use British aircraft, not Russian.

Check In rarely makes use of press releases, preferring to dig around to bring you original travel news. But one piece of propaganda caught our eye this week. Something Special Holidays (01992 557711) is offering a week in a château in Bergerae in June (during the France '98 World Cup) "for under 122".

sharing the Chateau Leotardie. They had points out "the price includes a ferry or shuttle crossing for one car".

That's 28 people, one car.

When The Travel Show begins its new series on Monday (8.30pm BBC2). Juliet Morris dines on scafood in Madagascar, A month from now... then sees the amazing dancing leniurs on the fourth-largest island on earth.

Copenhagen, the home of Tuborg and Carlsberg, is the next target of City to City. A year from now... the regular short-break spot in Wednesday's issue of the Independent Eye. Cathy Packe prescribes how to get the most out of a £250 escape to the Danish capital.

The calculation is based on 28 people A week from now...

Copenhagen gets more accessible, when Britain's newest airline gains its third destination. On 5 June, Go (0845 60 54321) starts flying from Stansted to the Danish capital. The lead-in fare on British Airways' no-frills offshoot is £100, but a "wider range of fares" will be announced at 9am on Monday next week.

... pay a visit to the Birmingham International Jazz Festival, between 29 June and 12 July, at venues all over the city. Festival hotline: 0121-454 7020

... meet Anglophiles from around the world at Scarborough Fayre, a festival of traditional English songs, dances and folk performances, from 28 May to 6 June.

SIMON CALDER



"Same company, different place, virtually identical experience." Chris Lewis, of London, writes that my experience at an Alamo car rental counter in Florida was far from unique. At Newark airport, New Jersey, he came under the same pressure to upgrade to a more expensive model.

"The man behind the counter started telling me that the economy car I'd booked and paid for lacked 'safety features' (unspecified) and, far worse, a radio. 'For only an extra \$20 a day...'

"I conferred with the better half -'save the money', she said, 'and stick with the small car'.

"We walked out to the allotted parking space and thought we'd made a mistake. I'm no expert on American cars, but this one was huge, with power everything - and n radio. There didn't seem to be any small cars in the parking compound. (Incidentally, the car parking area at Newark is a pig to find and we ended up missing our flight home, but that's another story.)"

Victor Carlton, of Bristol, says anyone who books the cheapest model of car is actually in a strong bargaining position. "The clerk who gave you a Suzuki Esteem was trying to pull a fast one. As soon as he saw your documents specifying a sub-compact, he knew he had a problem with none in stock. He should have immediately offered an upgrade at no extra cost, the choice of vehicle to be agreed.

"I always specify a sub-compact and have been offered any car on the rental lot: 'Hey, how about a Pontiac Firebird?' Providing the car has been pre-ordered and paid for, they have no choice. In your case he should have asked if you minded having a Suzuki Esteem as an alternative and, if you had a genuine objection, would have had to offer a second choice."

The rule, says Mr Carlton, is always to order a sub-compact. "You will almost always get an upgrade and, if

not, who needs a hig car?" Jonathan Posner writes from Niccone in Umbria to say he habitually books an A-class car for city driving. On my last trip to San Francisco this had an unexpectedly pleasant, although guilt-ridden (for about 15 seconds) benefit, Like yourself, I had order a Fiesta-sized car. What did I receive? Yes, a V8 Ford Mustang in a rather fetching red".

Peter May e-mails from the sunny side of cyberspace to say he has "long worked on the principle that car rental companies at airports never have the cheapest car in stock. I always preorder an A-class car and only once have I actually driven away in one.

"The agent usually says something like, 'Well, Mr May, we only have a ***** available' I look blank because I know nothing, and care even less, about cars, so I have no idea what a ***** is. They explain it is bigger than I ordered. I think of extra fuel and more difficulty driving and parking. But they regard it as something I should be pleased about I have never - never - been asked to pay more. You pay the rate for the car group ordered; if they can't supply it, they give the next group up at no extra charge. I have noticed that the shorter

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the rent the higger the car you get. "By the way, I find the web sites of the major car rental firms very useful for comparing rates, and usually the weekly rate is worth using even if the rental is less than a week. And if you decide to stay at a hotel near the airport on the night you arrive, you can save a lot by picking up the car at a location outside the airport zone."

Mr Carlton suggests saving the same cash by being economical with the truth to avoid airport tax on the rental. "It is a tax the airport charges for

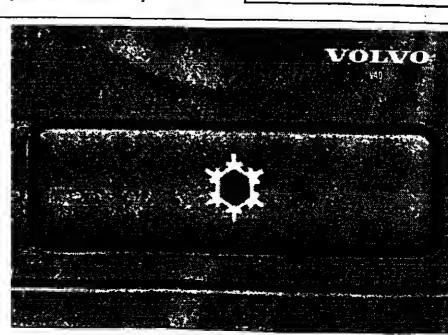
the privilege of being allowed to shuttle passengers to and from the airport. If you don't use the shuttle you don't pay the tax. They don't know whether you've come in on the shuttle or whether someone gave you a lift. Tell a white lie and save \$15."

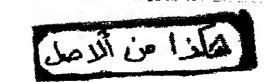
Finally, to avoid being befuddled by strange cars, says Mr Carlton, "make a checklist of the things you want to know about the car, and ask for someone to come and show you all the items, I once had great difficulty finding the release catch for the gas tanks. The depot didn't know, they had to ring someone. It turned out to be concealed inside the glove compartment,"

THE COOLEST PLACES TO BE THIS SUMMER. LISBON, HAVANA AND INSIDE THE VOLVO V40.

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What happens to a tourist resort when troubles miles away cause customers to leave abruptly? Last week Mark Elliott found himself almost alone on the enchanted island of Bali

> Nearly a decade ago I met an American couple holidaying, unexotically enough, on the Isle of Wight. They liked it well enough, but abruptly went home when the poll tax riots broke out in London. "But that's a hundred miles away," I exclaimed, suppressing a mocking chuckle. Their B&B was less amused at their departure.

Being in Bali this month was a distinct case of déjà vu. As fireworks started fizzing in Jakarta's political tinderbox,

phone offices and e-mail lounges were full of travellers reassuring friends and families. But as newspapers bubbled with awful news of riots, shootings, casualties and embassy airlifts from Jakarta, the hotels began to empty. "But Jakarta's more than 500 miles away." Notwithstanding, tourist numbers slowly but perceptibly started to decline, ignoring their own observations of Bali's obvious calm. Thousands of newcomers failed to arrived as tour groups cancelled.

The Balinese, said to have a smile for every emotion, found one of their more ironic grins as they watched their business dwindle. This is Bali. No trouble here," every local reminded us with gentle urgency. Throughout the riots elsewhere, the most newsworthy event in Bali was the Kuta Beach opening of the world's first Hard Rock Hotel. The giant guitar and amp standing sentry at its foyer door had no mobs to deter.

Those who retreated should turn around: Bali genuinely is the island of the gods. While the populous west of Indonesia turned to Islam centuries ago, the Balinese still revere the Hindu manifestations brought to the archipelago in the 5th century by Indian traders. Gods here are rather playful and need daily appeasing to avert such obvious disasters as the eruptions of the volcanoes which form the island's

Every day, homes, businesses and even the most tawdry tourist botels deck their shrines, steps and swimming pool edges with dozens of attractive offerings small handfuls of flowers, along with freshly boiled rice and burning incense in little hand-woven leaf haskets. In Bali there are more shrines than homes. Each village has at least three temples, and since so many flowers are required for devotional offerings. almost every home is set amidst drooping fronds of orange and violet bougainvillaea, scarlet hihiscus, spiky frangipani trees and palms sprouting parasitic or-

Even the most "ordinary" Ba-



On the terraces - view over Balinese rice fields

Photographs: Frank Spooner Pictures

Island of the g



linese villages shine with a photogenic tapestry of colours and a timeless Indiana Jones film-set quality. Add the volcano peaked horizon and dramatic rice terraces, and it's not surprising that the island is a long term haunt of artists and travellers. What is more surprising it the obliging way

in which most of the package tourists seem to stick to the prescribed day trips from the unappealing beach hubs of Kuta, Nusa Dua or Samur. At least that was while there still were tourists.

In Ubud, the island's artist

colony and cultural showcase,

the nightly legong dances continued in the royal palace courtyard, wayang kulit shadow puppets still strutted before oil lamps and as ever the flower strewn village was peacefully sleeping by 10pm. The only sign of trouble on the whole island came on 20 May. The day before President Suharto's resignation, the proposed na- £1 is over 16,000. tional day of demonstration called off at the last minute) did result in a vague sense of tension in the higger Balinese towns (Denpasar, Singaraja), Hundreds of troops and police guarded businesses and posed smiling for our photos. Dozens of townsfolk looked on, bemused. For tourists, the only inconvenience was the lack of transport - buses and mini-

ry services to Java were

interrupted to prevent Javanese agents provocateurs coming to stir un trouble.

Nothing else happened. Everyone went home early and the restaurants extended their happy hours in the evening. This was not so much in celebration as to lunge for the dwindling group of remaining foreign customers.

Even if the tourist numbers do make a miraculous recovery, Indonesia is likely to remain a bargain for at least a few months if not years. In 1997, the Indonesian currency, the rupiah, traded at around 4000 to the pound. Now

Meanwhile the price rises that have caused widespread hardship for the locals have come nowhere near a comparable four fold increase. The result is that for tourists, everything seems shamefully cheap. But if travellers feel guilty about profiting from the misfortunes of others, they should remember that much of the Balinese economy is built on vans stayed off the streets and fer-

Even without bargaining, £1

was enough to charter an outrigger canoe, rent mask/fins etc and pay a two-man crew to drive me out on a snorkelling trip from the ghostly quiet minor resort of Candi Dasa. Another pound paid for a sunrise cruise to see the dolphins at Lovina - breakfast thrown in - with money back if the dolphins didn't show up (they did). Accommodation in the £1-2 range includes quite passable double rooms with fan, attached bathroom and the obligatory fresh fruit, coffee and toast breakfast. For £5-£7/double the beds get bigger, the bathrooms have bot water and there's a fair chance of air conditioning and/or swim-

ming pool. All prices are negotiable. And far from adding tax and the usual summer high season supplemake up for dwindling num-

Bali may be the island of the gods, but its public transport straints of the dreaded bemos system sold its soul to the devil. Departures are regular in the

mornings and fares are cheap, but even medium sized towns tend to have more than one hus station; and vehicles can get pretty full, especially when a goat or two get on board with their masters. Travellers can get around these inconveniences with a system of shuttle buses and mini-tours. But with the prices so reasonable, there is every incentive to rent your own Jeep. "Hello Mister, Transport?" touts hiss from many a street corner, but small car-hire agencies are better value from only 60,000rp (£4) per day with chauffeur.

Petrol is extra, but costs only 7p per litre. Self-drive may save you a pound per day (an international drivers licence is required) but employing a driver saves you a lot of worry avoiding ments to your bill, hotels are pot holes, pedestrians, chickens presently offering discounts to and oncoming vehicles and leaves you a chance to enjoy the scenery.

Liberated from the conmini-vans it is easy to reach idyllic but lesser known villages like Inch, Jegu or Jatihuwih where the stacked emerald rice terraces are at their most spectacular. A Jeep also makes it easier to descend the rough road into Mt Batur's volcanic crater, or to reach the delightfully forgotten ruins of Ujung water palace near the quaint royal city of Amalpura. And however you travel, with fewer tourists, even the great, hawker blighted temples at Besakih and Mengwi regain their charm.

At any time, Balinese smiles seem remarkably immune to the tourist bome infection of cynicism. But now, more than any time in decades, you'll have much of the enchanted island to yourself.

A starring role in your own holiday

In Bangladesh, writes Paul Smith, you'll find yourself the centre of attention

Walking out on to the verandah of the Pink Palace in Dhaka is like stepping on to a stage, with crowds pointing and giggling. Tourists are always objects of entertainment in Bangladesh. This is no place for the shy, but while the endless staring and questions (often about how much you earn and how much your camera is worth) can be annoying, the vast majority of people are genuinely curious and interested in you.

The Pink Palace, or Ahsan Manzil, with its turn-of-the-century grandeur, is as good a place as any to start a tour of Dhaka. The interior has been delightfully restored to its former glory using pictures taken in 1964 to create exact replicas of the period. Incredible attention to detail has been taken right down to the last teaspoon in the elaborate dining hall - and the decor and furniture ooze money.

From the first-floor verandah you look down on the Buriganga river which runs through Dhaka. A boat trip on its murky waters gives a great insight into the hustling life of the city's waterways. From Sadarghat nearby it is possible to hire a small boat for about 50p an hour and watch the families of 12 being ferried across the river by a heat driver armed with a single our. Meanwhile, the big passenger ferries preparing to head down river sound their horns and belch out black smoke as they warm up their engines adding to the city's polluted atmosphere - and boat boys haul up buckets of black water to wash themselves and their clothes, though you wonder if they might be cleaner if they didn't bother.

These sights and sounds mean you are never in any doubt that you are in the Indian sub-continent. Yet the streets are cleaner and less pot-holed than in many Indian cities, and the absence of bullock carts and roaming cows (being a Muslim country, they have no sacred status in Bangladesh) makes walking around less a case of running the gauntlet.

Of the city's mosques, the 17th-century seven-domed Sat Gumbad is among the most impressive. The modern National Mosque, while hardly rivalling the Taj Mahal in beauty stakes, is worth a look simply for its sheer size and brash, functional architecture. Bangladeshi hospitality is prevalent even in the mosques and you may well find yourself invited in by worshippers and given a friendly quizzing

on your own religious beliefs. Another good place to meet Englishspeaking Bangladeshis is at Sonargaon, a hectic hour-long bus ride from Dhaka, and the most popular tourist spot for the city's residents. The former imperial capital of the country now houses the national Folk Arts and Crafts Museum and, more interestingly perhaps, is next door to Painam Nagar village.

Effectively just one long street of crumbling, ornate houses, the village was deserted by Hindu landowners who left after Partition, and their former homes are now used by villagers squatting in the once glorious huildings. Painam Nagar has the feel of a ghost town and for a bit of loose change small boys roaming the streets are happy to show visitors inside some of the former homes of the rich.

Back in Dhaka itself, the National Museum helps fill in some of the details on the creation of East Pakistan - which became Bangladesh after the war of liberation in 1971. But visitors will be disappointed in the Bengal tiger display - the fact that it is currently empty could be interpreted as a comment on the animal's fate in the country.

If Dhaka has a problem as a tourist destination, it is that once the day's sightseeing is over there is very little to do. Being Islamic, the country is virtually dry and even eating out offers little pleasure: a repetitive diet of mutton or chicken with rice and dahl. Escape to the upmarket Gulshan district and the city's five-star hotels. This is about the only place where your foreign features don't excite any interest from the people around you, allowing you a break from the attenuous which can make you feel like a visiting head of state.

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The national airline, Bangladesh Biman Airlines (0171-629 0252) flies from Heathrow to Dhaka every day apart from Wednesday and Friday. The lowest fares are likely to be found through the airline's consolidator, AETT (0171-377 9505), which is quoting £435 return for truyel in June. British citizens need a visa 10 enter Bangladesh. These are available at a cost of £4) from the High Commission at 28 Queen's Gate, London SW7 (0171-584 0081), or consulates in Manchester and Birmingham, or easiest of all - on arrival at Dhaku.

BACK TO BALI

Getting there

There are no direct flights between the UK and Bali; the quickest route, avoiding Jakarta, is via Kuala Lumpur or Singapore. Discounted fares are widely available; for example, Quest Worldwide (0181-547 3322) has a London-Ball return fare of £443 on Singapore Airlines, £445 on Malaysia.

Red tape No visas are required for short-term visits by British passport holders.

Tourist information Indonesian Tourist Office, Second Floor,

Whitehall House, 41 Whitehall, London SWIA 2BY, 0171-493 0030.

Government warnings Earlier this week the Foreign Office

softened its travel advice for Bali: "As the situation in Bali has been relatively calm, and tourist services are operating normally, the Embassy has at present no basis for advising against the resumption of tourist visits to Bali (transitting Jakarta as

For the country as a whole, the FO line for travellers is that "We recommend for the time being that only those with a

pressing need should visit Indonesia." For the latest Foreign Office advice, contact the Travel Advice Unit on 0171-238 4503 or 4504, or fax 0171-238 4545; on the Internet, at http://www.fco.gov.uk/ or on BBC-2 Ceefax from page 470 onwards.

The US authorities take a sterner line: "The Department of State warns all U.S. citizens to defer travel to Indonesia and strongly urges those Americans in Jakarta and Surabaya to depart as soon as possible. Americans in other parts of indonesia, including Bali, should consider departing the country at this time.

Simon Calder

Flying in the face of reason

In 1983 I tried to cheapskate-it to India by buying tickets from a bucket-shop in London. The carrier was to be an airline called Ariana Afghan; I hadn't heard of them but they sounded exotic - and cheap.

The first intimations that this was going to be the Flight to Hell was the Aeroflot plane standing at Heathrow ready to take us on the first stage of the journey to Moscow. The vicious-looking grey brute of a plane reminded me that this particular airline was part of its country's armed forces reserve. It took off with the roar from Armageddon and accelerated like an SS20 missile on speed. The stewards were frightening; the stewardesses even more so.

We stopped at Prague, then Moscow, and were herded on to an Ariana Afghan DC-10

reach Asia is aboard an Eastern bloc airline. Graham Hoyland recalls his hair-raising attempt to save cash on a trip to Delhi that seemed to be leaking fuel whilst I politely leaned forward and gazed out of the window.

from its wings. I wondered what the spare-parts contract could be considering that this was an American aeroplane owned by a country that was under occupation by Russia, which was still having a Cold War with America ...

It was early on Monday morning, and a group of Russian hard-men got on board, presumably en route for a week's oppression in Kahul The one sitting behind me suddenly grasped my scat in both hands and unaccountably launched into a frenzy of headhutting. The seat twanged and thumped against his forehead

Kabul airport was a sea of USSR helicopter gunships, and all photography was strictly

Even seven years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the cheapest way to

was the head of a Marco Polo sheep mounted on the wall wearing a startled expression and the legend "Stuffed by Jones Bros. Seattle". You

The vicious-looking grey brute of a plane reminded me that this airline was part of its country's armed forces reserve

banned. We learned here that the local rebels used Ariana Afghan flights for missile practice, which explained the unconventional, low, jinking landing approach.

In the airport lounge there

wouldn't think they would brag about it.

Eventually we made it to Delhi, had months of happy Himalayan climbing hut eventually had to face the real danger the return flight.

This was even worse: 13 hours lying on the floor at Delhi airport waiting for the flight. Then we got stuck at Kabul gazing at that bloody sheep again. Then we were stranded in Moscow for three days over some military Red-Square holiday, and were put in an awful hotel with Dominatrix Russian waitresses: "Youl Don't sit there! Sit there!"

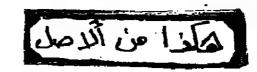
But the worst moment of all. came as the knackered DC10 attempted to land at Prague for the second time.

The three-day wait at Moscow had been caused by heavy fog at Prague airport, and the airline had obviously been

given instructions to move us on, fog or no fog. On his first attempt to land the poor pilot had been completely unable to see any airport lights at all, and we were now on the second cerily silent approach glide towards oblivion. The atmosphere in the plane was extremely tense, and the fog outside the windows was so thick they looked as if they were stuffed with cotton wool. Suddenly my straining eyes glimpsed the ground racing past at 200 miles per hour. Not down there! The plane reared up wildly,

and the screaming engines clawed us back up into the sky. The intercom crackled, and the pilot's voice, high on fear and tension came through, "We have," he announced, "just missed Prague Airport". Well, thank God for that, I thought





The world is your village

Moody mountains, empty beaches, great pubs - Rosses Point has acquired near mythical status. And now you can find it on the Internet, writes Jack O'Sullivan

county Sligo, perhaps the loveliest village in the country. My grandmother was born nearby and, for nearly a century, our family has returned as often as possible to a

For me, like many others, the Point has always been magical: wonderful seascapes and empty beaches, plus two offshore islands. There is Oyster Island, by which you can spend bours watching cormorants flying just above the water. And Coney, which has a stone chair upon which St Patrick is said to have sat, and its own pub, which the good saint may have missed. Opened when it "feels right", the owner is John McGowan, whose family can claim to be the sole remaining permanent residents.

Moody mountains encircle the landscape. On one side is Ben Bulben, on the other that rounded matriarch, Knock na Rea, atop of which is buried the celtic queen Maeve. Then there is the championship golf course, which plays differently every day with the changing seasons. There's a yacht club, a good hotel, the Yeats' Country, and wonderful pubs - Austie's for hot whiskeys when a gale's blowing. Hackett's for a chat, Harry's for a song, Nifty's for a bender. Such a shame they're all so far away.

I'm not the only long distance dreamer about the Point. W B Yeats, though he lived for much of his life in England,

On a stuffy day in London, when the west spent a lot of his boyhood in the village of Ireland seems very distant, I often and, as he wrote four months before his imagine myself back in Rosses Point in death: "Under bare Ben Bulben's head/In Drumcliff churchyard Yeats is laid". The Point captured his heart and inspired his poetry. It is easy to picture him walking the fields in the lower Rossplace that has acquired mythical status. es - tiny, hilly outcrops, with rocks jutting out that feel like the remains of an ancient civilisation, occupied now only by the fairies. His brother, Jack, painted local scenes, as ships sailed past Rosses, a smugglers' haven, down the channel into the port of Sligo five miles away.

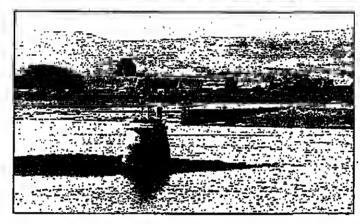
There are thousands of other Rosses lovers scattered around the globe. After all, the village was built on a seafaring tradition: it has produced more than 50 captains in the Merchant Navy this century alone: a long list of Devaneys. Bruens and Gillens who went to sea. The pubs are filled with the memorabilia they brought back. The world is dotted with the descendants of those who jumped ship and never returned or who chose to settle their families in great ports such as Liverpool and New York.

Now, thankfully, we can all talk to each other, as if we were, indeed, having a few pints together. Rosses Point has set up its own web site, complete with pictures. There is a "Captain's log", where the diaspora post their messages about what they are doing these days in Australia, America and elsewhere - and when to expect them back in the Point. It's all thanks to Kieran Devaney, a producer with Sky

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Metal Man points to a safe channel past Rosses Point in WB Yeats' beloved County Sligo (above) Photograph:

Adam Woolfitt/ Robert Harding

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Television and the Liverpool-born son of a Rosses Point man, who ended up working as a Commodore with B&I shipping. * 15 (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15) (15)

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So there is no need to daydream any more. You just plug into the Net and find out the latest news about the village, generally disseminated by a character masquerading as the Metal Man. He is a famous landmark, a 12ft-high Georgian statue, dressed in a naval uniform, who points towards the safety of the deep channel for passing shipping. Dubbed "the only Rosses Point man never to have told a lie", the Internet Metal Man posts messages about who he has seen lately walking towards the pub for a "heart starter".

At Christmas, much of the community gathered in Austic's when the site went live on line and a stream of messages went back and forth around the world. "People talk of technology killing community," said Noel Kilgailon, a local artist and writer, "but here is a case of it hringing us closer." He likened the event to the whole village gathered around the first valve wireless when it arrived in the Point. There has even been a message from one Adam J Sippola, who announced: "Greetings. I am the reincar-nation of W B Yeats. I was reborn on Sat-

urday, January 28 of 1978."

The web site fits the spirit of Rosses Point, says local resident Willie Murphy, who went to sea himself for some time, and whose two uncles were captains. "The perspective of this seafaring community has always been outwards. You would find old guys who had never been inland in Ireland but bad been around the world. I remember a row in Austie's over the siting of a pool table in a small port somewhere in North Africa."

These days, however, few people from the Point go to sea and the place has been undergoing something of an identity crisis. Better-off "blow-ins" with new suburban homes and good jobs in nearby Sligo town have begun to outnumber the original residents. Willie Murphy says the Internet, in drawing together the virtual community of Rosses Point, has arrived at an opportune moment. "It makes memories of the past accessible to new people and helps give them a sense of the place."

And if you're thinking of taking a holiday, it gives you a chance to get an insight into a village where, like any place you pass through, it's hard to feel at home during a brief visit. You'll be posting your own messages after seeing the reality.

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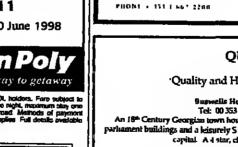
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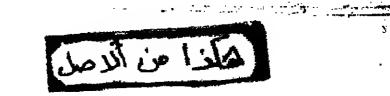


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Billing and a ser

in a pleasant, prosperous and, finally, peaceful city, Nicole Veash finds fire and brimstone – but only in Ian Paisley's pulpit on a Sunday morning

Why go now?

Because after George Mitchell's Good Friday peace agreement and the result of the referendum, Belfast is experiencing a sustained period of calm. Forget images of grim streets and paramilitary murals; Belfast's late-Victorian splendour shows another, prosperous side to a settlement set in the natural harbour of Belfast Lough.

Beam down

Competition among airlines between mainland Britain and Belfast is intense, which explains why the lowest fare from London is a reasonable £69 return, including tax. British Airways (0345 222111) and British Midland (0345 554554) fly from Heathrow to the international airport of Aldergrove.

Jersey Enropean (0990 676676) has the same fare to Belfast International from Stansted, or to the more convenient Harbour airport from Gatwick. There are good connections to both airports from other UK cities.

Get your bearings

Aldergrove is a good half-hour from the city, with a bus (£4.50) every 30 minutes or so. Better still, take a taxi and ask the driver to take you the back way. through rolling, heather-covered hillsides. The taxi will also weave its way to the top of either Shankill Road or Falls Road before reaching the city centre. From City airport, you can get a cab to the centre in 10 minutes, or take a train.

Check in

The four-star Europa Hotel (01232 327000), one of the most bombed hotels in the world, is the city's most expensive. Although the Europa bas a certain faded prestige, don't expect than makes up for this.

cause it is clean and you can Custom House.



Looking west over Belfast from the Europa, which has the dubious distinction of being the most bombed hotel in Europe

8 hours in Belfast

cram as many people as you like Lunch on the run in one room for the same price. Neither hotel is in a particularly scenic location, but they are well-placed for browsing round the city centre.

On a lower hudget, Malone Guest House (01232 669565) and Stranmillis Lodge (01232 682009) are based in the wellto-do, tree-lined end of Belfast. Neither is further than 15 minutes from the city centre in a taxi. Or you could try Arnie's Backpackers (01232 242867).

Take a walk

Belfast is a small city - you can easily explore it in a day. Start at the impressive City Hall in Donegall Square. The white Portland stone dome dominates the town centre, recalling the city's prosperous imperial beritage. It is worth taking a guided tour (10.30am and 2.30pm daily). Cross over the square and

Linenhall Library, founded to keen to get a better underend of the High Street, the old- Catholic Falls is shocking. Since the 1994 ceasefire, est part of the city, which still other reasonably-priced hotels has an 18th-century atmos- carved up by the peace line, a bave sprung up across the city phere. Near the docks you can centre. Next door to the Europa see the Prince Albert Memor- area, sometimes slicing streets in For some Sunday morning fire struction built in 1932. It is now and Hilton hotel being built next is the newly huilt Jury's Inn ial Clock and more of the clas- half. In places it is a 20ft wedge and brimstone, take a trip to the used to bouse civil servants door - sure signs that the (01232 533500). This is the one sical buildings that grace of iron, in other spots the de- Rev Ian Paisley's Free Presby- from the Northern Ireland Of- property industry has realised taxi drivers recommend, be- Belfast, including the restored velopers have given it a two-tone terian Courch in Ravenhill fice. It was in Castle Buildings, that Belfast is the new good

To glimpse real Belfast, go to the pubs. From the many sound drinking holes, two stand worthy of mention. The famous Crown Liquor Saloon, built 1885 and preserved by the National Trust, is a beautifully embalmed gin palace with panelled snugs, ornate tiling and original gaslights still in place. Champ (an Irish speciality of creamy mashed potatoes and chives) and sausages costs about £3. The Kitchen Bar, in the Commarket, is one of the friendliest old-fashinned pubs in town. The narrowcorridor, no-frills bar shows you grainy Belfast. Their Paddy's pizzas, under a fiver, are excellent lunch fare.

Images of the Shankill and the Falls flashing across a TV screen constitute most people's view of Belfast and these are places have a browse around the worth seeing. What really strikes a visitor is the way in which two 1788 and essential for anyone similar ribbon developments and barsh lighting are less than exist right next to each other. fantastic rooms, although the standing of the history of the The proximity between the frieodliness of the staff more Troubles. Then walk to the far Protestant Sbankill and the

The two communities are wall that meanders through the

and ask the driver to take you past some of the more colourful paramilitary murals. The locals are used to a few tourists. but don't take liberties by lingering longer than necessary.

Rousing dinner

Belfast is still a meat-and-potato place - not all of the locals are inclined to gastronomical experiment. Most of the eating places are situated along the "Golden Mile", a fork of two roads which lead up to the uni-Those on a budget can opt

for any one of a number of Italian restaurants. Speranza, in Shaftesbury Square, is popular packed. The portions are a good size. If you want to splash out, Roscoffs, also in Shaftesbury Square, is probably the most expensive eating place in Belfast, It was chef Paul Rankin who brought modern British cuisine to the city. But the decor relaxing. Another stylish eaterie is Deanes, in Howard Street, worth going to just for the sumptuous decor.

Sunday morning — go to church

garden wall look. Take a taxi here Road. Experiencing his unique a low-rise modern block, that thing.

Donegall Street and York Street is worth visiting as the place where Edward Carson - the - is buried. For Mass, go to St Brigid's in tree-lined Malone Road, south Belfast.

Sunday lunch

Most restaurants don't bother opening on a Sunday, so people tend to plump for a hotel carvery. The picturesque Culloden Hotel, in Bangor Road, with students and always a taxi ride from the city centre, is worth visiting just for its loughside setting. The Stormont Hotel, in Upper Newtownards Road, an unexciting modern building with good food, is a convenient place for your next stop.

A walk in the park

Juin families, couples and a few other visitors for a leisurely acai con-

mix of religion and politics the Good Friday deal was brogives you some understanding kered. Parliament remains one of how he reached his key po- of the most enduring images of sition in Ulster's history books. the Troubles, a building which For Protestants, St Anne's for many Catholics serves as a Cathedral, at the junction of constant reminder of partitioned Ireland. The statue of Edward Carson gracing the front of the building is seen by man who symbolised partition nationalists as a nagging reminder of the province's unionist-dominated past.

lcing on the cake

Two other sights should not be missed. Queen's University (oo University Road at the top of the Golden Mile), is walking distance from the town centre. The Tudor-style college, founded in 1845 by Sir Charles Lanyon, has an impressive facade and delightful grounds.

Walk back into town and towards the dockside redevelopment and take a peck at the Waterfront Concert Hall. The spectacular £32m building was designed in the city and built from local stone. It is shaped like a ship in parts and an aircraft in others to symbolises the stroll up the leafy, grass-lined av- two proudest local industries. It enue to the Parliament building also represents the money that in Stormont for that must-have big business has been pouring pbnto. The Parliament building into the city since the 1994

GREEN CHANNEL

Anyone who has looked into "ecotourism" holidays will know there are quite a lot around, but they aren't necessarily all based on the same criteria. It seems that ecotourism can mean anything from living with an indigenous community in the Ecuadorian rainforest. in staying in a five-star hotel and going on salari.

To help you through this laberinth of definitions and possibilities, you can turn to the Internet where a bit of ecosuring will help you to get to grips with what you think ecotourism should be.

The Ecotourism Society http://www.ecotourism.org

The website for The Ecotourism Society - a US-based organisation focusing on ecotourism world-wide includes guidelines on ecotourism and a list of travel

Their virtual "Ecotourism Explorer Path" leads you to a collection of vital facts, but also some nuggets of personal wisdom that real-time explorers in the ecotourism field have acquired.

Tourism Concern

http://www.gn.apc.org/tourismconcern This is the website for the UK membership organisation, Tourism Concern, which campaigns ker change in the tourism industry and provides information for travellers. A new community tourism directory on its site lists holidays run by, and with. local communities, mainly in developing countries. Tourism Concern points out it does not have the resources to check out organisations listed thoroughly. so inclusion in the directory does not constitute Tourism Concern's "eco seal of approval". But ali organisations listed say that their tours are either run by, or greatly benefit the community.

Green Travel

http://www.earthsystems.org/list/green-trave/ This is both a website and a list server, which means you can visit its web-site or receive daily mailings from Green Travel subscribers over the e-mail. The mailings on Green-Travel come from both travellers and people working in tourism world-wide, and include discussion about ecotourism issues as well as postings from ecotourism operators.

Ethics in Tourism

http://www.mcb.co.uk/services/conferentjan98/eit/ This conference is exploring some of the key ethical issues of tourism development world-wide, and particularly in developing countries. It is geared mainly to tourism planners or entics, but many travellers will find the discussions interesting and informative. The conference (which you can subscribe to on e-mail, or view on the Internet like Green Travel) started in January and is running until July 1998.

Sue Wheat

RED CHANNEL

Mean streets: US cities where the Miami tourist office hints that you may not wish to go

The new edition of Greater Miami News could hail a battle between US cities on how safe, or otherwise. they are. Boasting that robberies from tourists have fallen by 84 per cent in five years, the publication goes on to list six cities with more cases of recorded crime than Miami - which, according to latest FBI figures. was 50,000 in 1996/97:

St Louis, Missouri (51,000) Honolulu, Hawaii (53.00)) Nashville, Tennessee (59,000) San Diego, California (59,000] Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (93,001) Detroit, Michigan (120,000)

Selling the new Armagh: an inside story

The city jail once held Bernadette Devlin. Now it is a film set and tourist attraction — but it's still grim, says Simon Calder



The hard cell: reality is more chilling than the celluloid

Pat Brannigan's chains clinked of responses you don't expect quietly as he perched on the flimsy bed in the dank, dark cell. Then he started to tell me how pleased he was to be inside Armagh jail. "Look at the crowds outside. This is a great day for the city and, hopefully, it'll bring a lot more people here."

The city's tord mayor, wearing the regalia of his office, was opening of Ireland's latest tourist attraction. Armagh jail - whose catchment area included the region that I hope need no longer be termed Northern Ireland's "bandit country" - closed bleak hall of A-wing, an inhumane cage for humans, you feel

from a tourist attraction.

From outside, it is one of the grandest Georgian huildings in the fine city of Armagh; only the hars on the windows reveal its purpose. The prison opened as County Armagh's jail in 1780 and, in the intervening two centuries, thousands of prisoners have lived and died here. speaking earlier this month at the The last to be hanged in the yard was a Monaghan huicher named John Fee, who was buried, so legend has it, beneath the rhubarb patch in the gov-

eroor's garden. If you've not been in prison in 1988. But walking into the before, you will be surprised to see how much the reality resembles the image you've seen that the last inmate could have on screen. That's because many been moved out just last week. of the jail scenes on TV and film Armagh jail triggers all kinds in the past decade were shot

right here. The opening scene of Daniel Day-Lewis's latest, The Boxer, takes place in A-wing.

Even on a warm spring day, when sunlight splashes through between the bars on the low, mean window, this cell-block is more chilling than the celluloid. What might, in more hospitable circumstances, be termed an atrium, stretches out for 50 yards and upwards for perhaps 50 feet. Every surface is painted a merciless grubby gloss that seems to reflect the hopelessness of incarceration.

A clanking staircase lifts you to the balcony, a sullen rib of steet that runs around the void. Visitors can wander into each cell in turn, close the door behind them and imagine the hell of solitude where the only light is from a sliver of window and the only human contact is through a slot in the door.

The exercise yard is hardly cheerier. Through a series of hulking great gates, you emerge blinking into the outside/inside world. Everything from the Tarmac to the walls to the slates is a uniform shade of grey. The bleak horizon is a high, austere wall decked with wire and broken glass. You are in the middle of one of Ireland's most historie cities, yet you could be

The tord mayor assured me that it was pure coincidence that Armagh jail was opening in the same month that saw a majority voting for the peace agreement in Ireland's historic referendum. But the prison has a hell of a history. Many prominent figures, including the then Bernadette Devlin, were held

a million miles from humanity.

Perhaps, as well as a tourist attraction, it will become a sombre shrine to the lives lost in the past 30 years of the Troubles.

you too may be mightily muddled: with excitement at such an of the films they made there. extraordinary new development, "I didn't have to do much borror at the conditions of a

in the late 20th century, and a I just had to tell the driver who gave me a lift to the coast about prisoner inside the Maze."

By the time you break out, the day's experience. He smiled. Armagh jail is open at weekends "Yes, I worked as an extra in one until 28 June: call the tourist office (01861 521800) for times and plans thereafter. Admission is every so often they'd say 'we need £1. Simon Calder paid £95 for a Heathrow-Belfast return on British prison that was still functioning another warder and I'd walk on." He paused. "It felt quite Midland, and £10.50 for a night new-found respect for freedom. strange, really. After all, I'd at Armagh youth hostel. At bank spent 14 years as a Republican holidays, buses to and from Ar-

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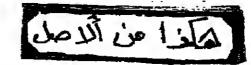
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In Gdansk you feel you are in the very essence of history. Yet most of the city has been built since the war, writes Hugh O'Shaughnessy

Nostalgia, they say, isn't what it used to be. Well, in the Polish port of Gdansk, founded in 997 as a base for evangelising the heathens of the Baltic and one of the most beautiful cities in northern Europe, nostalgia is fully up to the standards of yes-teryear. It is flourishing mightily in this former stronghold of the Knights of the Teutonic Order.

Walk through the Old City after dark and you feel yourself steeped in the essence of medieval mystery. The great shadowy bulk of Our Lady's church soars 250 feet into the blackness, its tower and pinnacles rivalled only by the gold-tipped spire of the town hall. The ancient streets, lined with high, narrow palaces, residences and warehouses are brightly lit hut mostly silent and deserted.

The city's location where the Vistula meets the sea allowed it to grow rich on the east European grain and timber trade and on the amber which is still plentiful hereabouts. The spirit of the 1,001 years of prosperous history of a city - also known in the West under its German name of Danzig is almost palpable. Through the Green Gate at the end of the Long Market, as handsome s thoroughfare as you would find north of Prague, there is a glimpse of water and ships tied up while the cranes of Lech Walesa's shipyards puncture the night sky to the north.

northern light reveals the details of the great huildings in their most handsome detail: stone medallions and busts of Roman emperors and local heroes, lanterns and shop signs in wrought iron, a sundial dating back to 1589, the fountain of Neptune, grand staircases and chandeliers.

Mariacka Street is said to be the most



Belle of the Baltic

TRAVEL: OVERSEAS

Street, it is lined with shops selling well crafted jewellery of silver which incorporates amber of every colour from creamy to russet. It was used as a set for the film of The Tin Drum by Günter Grass, the great German novelist who was born in the city.

Push open the massive doors of Our In the morning Gdansk is different. The Lady's church, so dark in the gloom of the night, and you enter a vast white space in the morning light, capable, they say, of holding 25,000 worshippers. The baroque monuments speak of the city's German past. Was the Guldenstern commemorated with a rococo inscription any descendant of Shakespeare's character?

But pinch yourself. Today's Gdansk is

beautiful in the city; less grand than Long the magnificent and dignified product of a terrible history and a nostalgic Polish dream; for all their medieval or Renaissance looks, few of the buildings have been up for more than 50 years.

Founded by Poles and a hishop from Bohemia a millennium ago, the city has always been a point of contact—and often a point of bloody abrasion—between Teutons and Slavs. For generations, the city's prosperous and predominantly German hurghers were happy to live under the Polish monarchy, lending it the money it was chronically short of and huilding those palaces on the interest. When Poland was abolished and struck off the map of Europe 200 years ago they lived under Prussian rule. After the

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FRANCE . BRITAIN 0181 - 742 3049 end of the First World War, the League of mans in the 1939 invasion of Poland itself. Nations made the city the Free State of Danzig, but eventually the citizens turned en masse to the Nazi cause.

It was no coincidence that the first shots of World War Two were fired against Poland at 4.45 in the morning of 1 September 1939 from a German battleship, the Schleswig-Holstein, in the harbour. Gdansk to rubble in a fire storm, nine out of every so much here. 10 houses being burnt as 15 German divisions resisted the advancing Russians. The Poles observed grimly how the Wehrmacht was being annihilated by a Red Army which had started the war as an ally of the Ger-

In succeeding years the Poles undertook a huge restoration effort, greater and, frankly, more successful than the one they undertook in Warsaw. From the charred timbers and broken bricks they picked out the indestructible stones and raised them again. The city has risen from its ashes in the most magnificent way and has once

more than the aesthete with a taste for architecture and historical musing. The brand-new Hanza Hotel on the waterfront has excellent food and comfortable rooms, London WIR 5AI (0171-580 8811)

Today Gdansk is the dignified product of a terrible history and a nostalgic Polish dream Photograph: Claudia Gruszka

and in its basement there is a small but lively casino. On the evening I was there one middle-aged man was splurging his chips on the roulette table, scarcely conscious of losing, which was often, or winning, which was rare. As his pile melted away a new wad of 200 zloty notes appeared from his pockets and the croupier accepted the money gracefully. On my table was a little old lady, who clearly modelled herself on Antonida Vasilevna, the Grandmother in Dostoevsky's novel The Gambler and whose luck was remarkable. I should have followed her system. It might have saved me money.

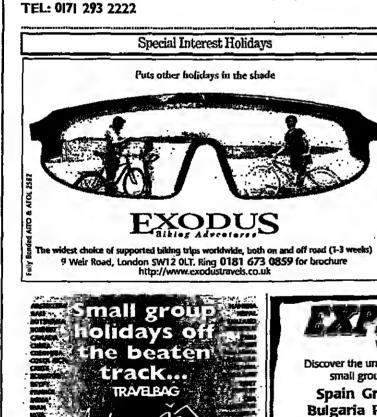
The neighbouring city of Gdynia wants a racier image and one club ("Only for Gentelmen[sic]-Restaurant-Jacuzzi-Sauna-Gogo dancers") advertises itself, doubtless with a good deal of licence, as the Polish

Las Vegas.

A few miles to the south-east at Marbork lies the huge brick fortress which served as the headquarters of the Teutonic Knights, the unemployed Crusaders whom the Pope set to preach and fight in northem Europe. They came to dominate the area before they were conquered by the Poles in the 15th century. On the wall overlooking the moat someone has scrawled in English "fight war, not wars". The motto has been unheeded around here, but perhaps now it will be, especially by Poland's neighbours to the West.

survived most of the war unscathed, but in the final act of Hitler's war it was reduced the final act of Hitler's war it was reduced came from the Dutch architects who built on LOT Polish Airlines. The discount agency Fregata (0171-451 7000) is selling tickets for But Gdansk and the Baltic riviera is for £184 return in June. Eurolines (01582 404511) has a bus from London for £89.

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We were sitting in the noonday heat at the tiny Adriatic port of Murter on the coast of Croatia and our young children were getting restless. The fisherman who was meant to take us to a cottage on a remote island in the Kornati archipelago had wandered off into the town several hours before. His boat was an alarmingly ald vessel which seemed far too small in ferry us and all the provisions needed for a week's stay in a house without electricity or running water. The longer we were left no the dockside the more worried we became.

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We were cut off from the world of travel agents, credit cards and complaint hotlines. The whole idea of an adveoturous holiday amid the sparkling waters of a little-known marine national park - described by the Lonely Planet guide as "beautiful" but also "uninhahited". -- was quickly losing its appeal. The children demanded ice creams, the hot wind picked up and there was still no sign of the boatman. My wife started talking about Cornwall.

Croatia is not usually this difficult for halidaymakers. Tourists, oumbering up to 10 million a year before the war, are now streaming back. Our ferry from-Italy was dominated by flashy types from Milan and Bologna whose BMWs were towing huge speedboats. Wheoever

Croatia's Kornati islands are a wonderful if wild corner of paradise - as David Shukman and his family found out on a tranquil adventure there

we drove along the dangerously narrow coastal road, it was heavy with cars and caravans from Germany, Austria and Poland, though none from Britain,

Most visitors, booking their holidays through agencies, end up in apartment blocks or hotels in the more famous resorts such as Dubrovnik. We wanted rates in the maze of rocky islets that, something different — perhaps the in the mid-19th century, they sold the Croatian equivalent of a French gite but with its own beach. It was arranged with the help of a Croatian friend, and it had all the usual uncertainties of DIY travel. Heoce our loog wait on the In the end, our fisherman returned

and, with the ancient diesel engine chugging noisily, we picked our way through



the first of more than 100 islands making up the Kornati archipelago.

It turned out that our rugged helmsman and host. Predrag Juraga, was from one of 130 families who jointly own the Kornati islands. The original masters. the Venetians, lost so much trade to piwhole archipelago. With the onset of Communism in Yugoslavia, the fishing families were allowed to retain ownership because the islands were too barren to make a profit. The result, reinforced by status as a national park, is that this striking seascape is courely free of development or pollution. Most visitors have to sleep aboard their

yachis. Our cottage was one of only a few dozen in the whole archipelago.

The house was in a pretty bay shaded by a dense collection of plum and fig trees, with olive groves stretching up the dusty hillside behind it. A small jetty and shingle beach lay a few yards in front. Paths had been laid over the roughest stooes. Bottled gas powered a fridge. A well of deliciously cool water was close at hand. And, to the delight of our youngest children, Predrag and his cousins had constructed a seawater swimming pool.

Once the boat's engine had stopped, our ears adjusted to the geotle lapping of the waves and the utter tranquillity of the scene. Our only neighbours were a Croat couple, Zlatko and Vishnya, oo holiday from Zagreb. The ocarest other houses - a small huddle of them were several hundred yards away. And around us. The gentle night-air carried the voice of a fisherman from half-a-mile away. We felt the thrill of being in a wonderful if wild corner of paradise.

Most striking were the extraordinary clarity and colour of the sea and the abundant and beautiful marine life. Sporkelling became a passion for all of through the plastic window of our Lilo, especially when Zlatko involved us in his attempts at fishing. Harpooning yielded more than enough for barbecues over olivewood, while overnight we snared a four-foot eel-like fish which ended up in a superb stew. As Zlatko and I swam back with this heavy catch, dawn broke and flights of duck skimmed over the mirrored surface of the water. I realised with pleasure that it was a Monday morning and that I had spent oearly two hours in the sea without feeling cold. I grinned

so much that my mask flooded. Each day seemed more restful than the last. The weather remained hot. My wife scoured the seabed for silver shells and starfish. We collected mussels and clams and even tried poor-man's caviar - the bright orange eggs of sea urchins. From the orchard around the house, the children picked tiny figs and plums. We Thursdays. In June, Croatia Airlines has when darkness fell, we could count only dined outdoors by candlelight, drinking a £275 return fare to Split. British Airtwo distant lights amid the islands fruity local wines and marvelling at the ways (0345 222111) flies daily except lack of insects. Even the washing-up, at an outside sink with a breathtaking view of the bay, had its attractions.

Predrag came to collect us all too sooo. His boat oow seemed sturdy and welcoming. As we set off for the mainland very early the next day, we watched the Kornati islands change us, with the youngest children gazing from a silvery-grey to a pale orange

while the moon sank and the sun rose. Specks of phosphorescence danced on the dark-blue ripples. The three-hour journey, like the week, passed in a flash.

David Shukman, the BBC's Europe Correspondent, crossed from Ancona, in Italy, to Zadar, in Croatia, with Jadrolinija Ferries. It cost £237.20 each way for two cabins plus £30 each way for the car. Tickets through Dalmatian & Istrian Travel (0181-749 5255). Rent for the cottage was £45 per day all-inclusive. Arrangements were made through Aida Gracin of Mistral Travel in Sibenik (00 385 22 336578). Croatia Airlines (0181-563 0022) flies daily from Heathrow to Zagreb, with con-

nections to Dubrovnik and Split. There are also direct flights to Split from Heathrow on Saturday, from Stansted on Wednesdays and from Gatwick on Mondays from Gaswick to Zagreb, and has a World Offer fare of £226 return which must be booked by 10 June for travel in June.

Several tour operators offer inclusive holidays in Croatia; more details from the Croatia National Tourist Office, 2 The Lanchesters, 162-164 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 9ER (018 563 7979).

The 100-plus islands that make up the Kornati archipelago are jointly owned by 130 families of Croatian fishermen whose piratical ancestors bought them from the Venetians. They now have national

park status



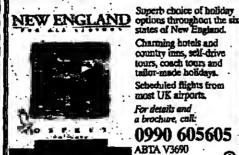




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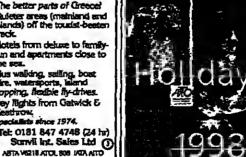
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Farne Islands: famous for Grace Darling and thousands of sea birds Photograph: Michael Scott

Go wild Farne

Where do you find puffins, kittiwakes and the odd rabbit? Sarah lewell spends the day on with 70,000 seabirds on the Fame Islands

The Farne Islands, off the coast of north Aidan lived like a hermit, but his succesrocks, treacherous to sailors but a sanctuary for thousands of nesting seabirds and an idyllic spot for bird-watchers. During the summer little fishing boats take visitors out to the largest islands, Staple and Inner tal isolation. Farne, and, for a fee payable to the National heads out of the sea and kittiwakes screech

The name Farne derives from Anglo-Saxon times when the islands were called the Farena Ealande - "Island of the Pilgrims". The first visitor was St Aidan, who in 640 left the hustle and bustle of monastic life on Lindisfarme (which you can see white, as are many of the other Farme hirds outlined on the horizon from the boat) for such as the guillemot, the lesser blackthe quiet and solitude of Inner Farne. St backed gull, the kittiwake, the terms and, pies in the waves. There are also rabbits on

Northumberland, are a cluster of barren sor, St Cuthbert, was even more reclusive. He built himself a circular cell of rough stones, with a timber roof to cut off the distraction of the sky, and shut himself away for nine years to pray and meditate in to-St Cuthbert's only companions on the

Trust, one can bask in the beauty of a island would have been the birds and, acwildlife reserve where grey seals poke their cording to legend, he was particularly fond of the large brown eider ducks that still breed on Inner Farne. Even today they are amazingly tame and make their nests hang up against the edge of the National Trust's wooden-slatted walkway that runs

The male eider ducks are black and

TRAVEL: UK. EIRE, OVERSEAS

of course, the islands' most charming characters - the puffins. Known locally as the "tommy noddies" because of the way their heads bob as they walk along, they have chunky little bodies, large heads and thick orange and yellow beaks. They swoop about flapping their tiny little wings and look very comical. The terns, however, are not so sweet; during the breeding season they become fiercely protective of their eggs and dive-bomb unsuspecting tourists, sometimes drawing blood with their sharp red beaks. Visitors with bald pates are advised

Birds are not the only wildlife on the islands; there is also a large colony of grey seals, the rarest species of seal in the world. Their creamy-coloured heads bob up beside boats and they roll and tumble like pup-

to wear a bat.

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the islands, originally brought over from the mainland by the lighthouse keepers before escaping and breeding.

The first lighthouse was built in 1673, and its keepers had to lug coal and timber up a 40ft tower to keep a fire burning all night. By the early 19th century the fires had been replaced by a revolving beam of light from the new lighthouse on Longstone island. Grace, the daughter of keeper William Darling, became a national heroine in 1838 when she helped her father save the lives of nine people from the wreck of the Forfarshire, and a boat takes visitors past Harker's Rock, where the ship broke up,

Sarah Jewell took six-year-olds Rita Pilkington and Reuben Carter on a day-trip to

Sarah: We got on to our boat, Glad Tidings, at the fishing village of Seahouses, well fortified with an extremely tasty lunch of fresh fish and thick, homecut chips from Lewis's Restaurant in the high street, and I was glad that it was such a calm sea. It is easy to see why so many ships was born. It is the most beautiful, have been wrecked as the boat weaves its windswept graveyard, overlooking the sea way through the partially hidden black and a fitting place for ber to be buried.

nes, and my favourite heroine was always Grace Darling. The courage of this 22-year- bly and made me feel a little hit sick. I liked old girl, who rowed out one stormy night the puffins best because they are so little to save the lives of drowning sailors, cap- and cute, and I liked the seals because they

tured my imagination - and, seeing how unsteady our sturdy, motorised fishing boat was on a very still day, I was even more impressed by how brave and strong she must have been.

Grace is supposed to have heard the cries of the drowning men and pleaded with her father to go and rescue them, but, as it was hard enough to hear what people were saying to each other on our boat in broad daylight with the water slapping up against the side and the terms screeching overhead, it is hard to believe that this bit of the story was true.

Back on the mainland, we went to the Grace Durling museum in Bamburgh, a few miles away from Seahouses, I was delighted to see the original Northumbrian fishing coble that she rowed in. The museum also contains lots of intriguing trinkets and relics from the Darling family, such as a long lock of Grace's hair, letters and the log book recording the rescue.

Four years after the rescue Grace died of TB, and we went to visit the ornate memorial to her in Bamburgh churchyard, opposite the cottage where she

As a child I had a book of Girls' Hero- Rita: I loved going on the boat and wanted to dive in the water, but it was quite wob-

are really fat and chubby. The birds were all very noisy and the rocks are all white and smelly from their poos. There are 70,000 seabirds. I liked getting off the boat and going on the island but the cliff was very scary, and I was afraid that I would fall in. I liked going to see the bouse where Grace Darling was born and looking in the

Reuben: I was the first person on the boat to see a seal. I liked looking at the seals' heads in the water, they looked like fishing buoys. I liked putting my hand over the side of the boat and getting splashed with water and I liked the puffins best because they were so tiny and flap their wings so fast when they fly. When we got off the boat I saw an eider duck beside the path and I nearly kicked it by mistake. The captain of the boat told us that the guillemot lays one egg on the rocks and it is pear-shaped so that it won't fall off. I had a very good day

The deal

Admission free.

Farne Island Tours at Seahouses (01665 720308), open to 31 October (first sailing 10.30am). Cost: adults £3.90, children over five £1.95.

A National Trust entrance fee of £3.90 pe person is payable on arrival. Grace Darling Museum, 2 Radeliffe Road. Bamburgh (01668 214465), open to 30 September. Mon to Sat10am-Spm, Sun 12-Spm.

SAFE AT SEA

A round up of lighthouses to visit

Pendeen Lighthouse, Pendeen, Penzance, Cornwall, (01736 788418) Guided tours of this still-working lighthouse, which was built in 1900, last around half an hour and include a visit to the engine room. Amongst other things on display, you'll find the last really large foghorn in the country. Open between Easter and the end of September between Monday and Friday, from Юат to 5pm (last admission 30mins before closing). Entrance is (2) for adults, (1.50) for concessions, £1 for students and children or £5 for a family ticket.

Long Hill Lighthouse, nr Wicklow, Ireland. Irish Landmark Trust (00 353 I 662 8425) This octagonal stone lighthouse was built in 1781 as one of a

strong as ever

plus:

pair but, after being struck by lightning in 1836 and gutted by the ensuing fire, it came out of service and remained empty until 1996 when the Irish Landmark Trust bought and renovated it. The lighthouse. which is designed with a room on each floor, can now be hired out by six people. A week's stay costs between £400 and £750 depending on the season.

South Foreland Lighthouse, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Dover (01304 852463) Peeking over Dover's white cliffs. this lighthouse was built in 1843 and was used for the first successful trials in radio navigation. Once you reach the lighthouse on foot from Langley Cliffs there is an information room and visitors also have access to the tower and balcony around the light. The lighthouse is open between 4 April and 25 October

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on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 2.30 to 5.30pm. National Trust members get in for free, otherwise it costs £1.50 for adults and 75p for

Souter Lighthouse, Coast Road. Whitburn, Sunderland (019) 529 3161) Built in 1870, this red-and-white striped lighthouse was the first to be powered by alternating electric current. Now owned by the National Trust, the engine room, light tower and keeper's cottage are all on view and there is a video. model and information display. Opening times are Ilam to 5pm every day except Fridays, between I April and 31 October. Entrance for non-members costs 22.50 for adults or £1.25 for children.

Rhiannon Batten



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If you can use your brain as well as run, then orienteering is for you. Eric Kendall reports on this combination of map-reading and fitness

"Shotover Park? Dunno where that is. Have you got a almost unnoticed as you read your map and follow your map?" asked the taxi driver, adding. "What you doing

"Orienteering," I replied, "It's all about, um, routefinding. Perhaps you want to come along - they say they cater for all standards."

Much, much later, deep in bluebeil woods, accompanied only by the chipring of spriog birds, I slid from a small depression to a large depression, all brought on by O (as orienteering is known in the trade). I knew exactly where I was going, but half of the control points were hidden in dips of various sizes, listed as "depressions" oo my sweatily clutched route description

Most of the other descriptors were more obviously geographical (earth banks, path junctioo), though some, such as "veg boundary" brought on premonitions of an early lunch washed down with copious quantities of, well, anything liquid - it's thirsty work, exacerbated by long leggings you have to wear, whatever the weather, to preveot your legs being lacerated by brambles.

What all the controls on an orienteering course bave in common is the ability to be confused with similar-looking points on the map. Which is the whole idea: it's a workout for the thinklog runner, if that's not a contradiction in terms

But it's not just high-speed map reading. On a reasooable-sized course, the solitary splendour of running across open country makes it a very different experience to a massed-start cross country run. Good. The whole idea is not to be able to follow the berd, so staggered starts are used. Each individual finds

their own way from one control to another, marking their control card with a needle punch. At the end of the course, the different punch patterns establish that you really did find all the controls.

Various courses, from easy to hard, generally share the same territory, giving rise to startling apparitions ran. But unless you're representing your country or have charging out of the undergrowth from where you least expect them. Otherwise it's a relatively peaceful experience: just you, your map and the rasping of your ag- so much as bow you get there. Besides, there's only oronised breath as you toil up yet another hill. The Come ange squash and, inexplicably, results papers pinned up Orienteering leaflet says the physical exertion goes on washing lines to look forward to anyway.

route, but in other respects, it's quite accurate.

Having queued for a start time, map and punch card, you go to the false start where the timing begins and you sprint five yards to the master map to copy your control point locations. Theo you start for real, working out a route as you go. Before this point, the only information you can study over a cup of tea and a bacon sandwich is the unmarked map, but at least it

gives you the chance to work out which way north is, at your leisure, and perbaps even more critically, to distinguisb fences from paths or contour lines or something called an uocrossable dyke.

For beginners, compass work and intricate map-reading are all a bit of a technicality: your route woo't be very complicated, as it relies mostly on paths. You can easily see where

you've got to go, if you have any map sense at all. Once you get competitive, it's a different story: your instantly planned route has to weight up the various options from point to point. The easiest way will be the longest, but the direct route might have almost impenetrable undergrowth, It's your choice. A serious map- or compassreading error could lose you minutes and add to the distance travelled, particularly

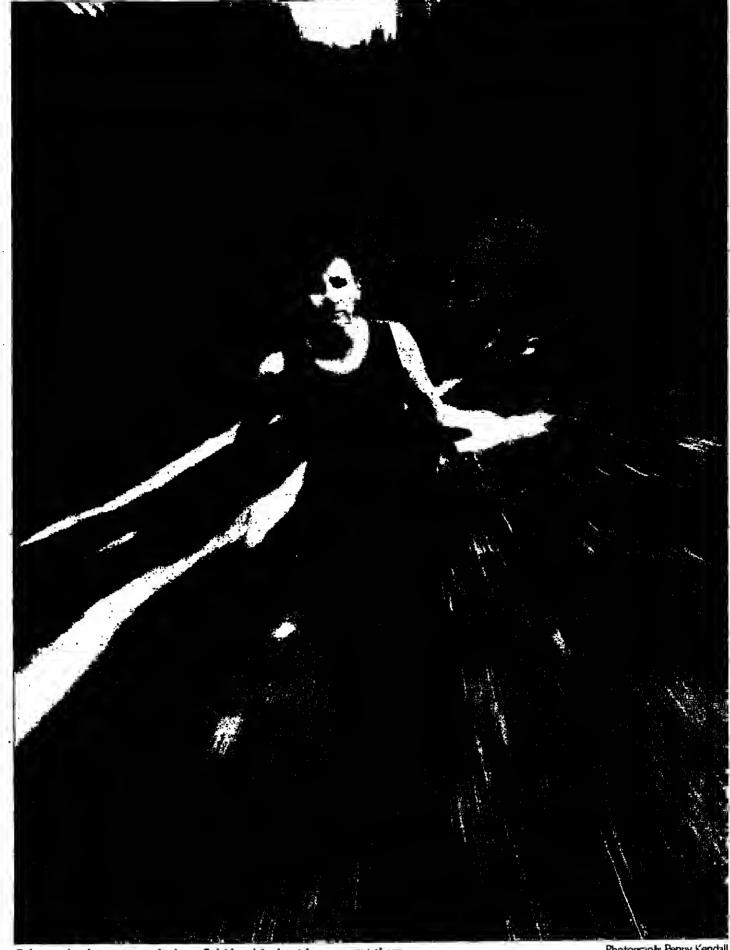
Even oo easy terrain, time pressure can induce mistakes in anyone with more enthusiasm than experience. You should aim for a level of exertion that still allows the brain to function and leaves you with

enough co-ordination to clip your card at each

if ao impassable obstacle is overlooked

control. Keeping moving, even slowly, is the key, getting your bearings as yon go. At the bighest levels, where long distances are covered in world-class running times, momeotary indecision which costs just five or 10 secoods can be the difference between gold and alsoa lot of money on the outcome, remember that orienteering - above all other sports - is not about arriving

on the map.



Orienteering is not so much about finishing, it's about how you get there

Photograph: Penny Kendall

INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT

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Wednesday 3 June 7:30pm - 9:30pm



The Independent and Selfridges have again joined forces - this time for a celebration of summer food and drink on the 3rd June. On offer will be a variety of demonstrations from leading producers and suppliers, including caviar, beer and wine tutorials, a sushi-making demonstration and innumerable tutored

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GETTING YOUR BEARINGS

Contact the British Orienteering Federation, Riversdale, Dale Road North, Darley Dale, Madock, Derbyshire DE4 2HX (01629 734042; www.cix.co.uk/~bof; e-mail bof@bof.cix.co.uk). Send an A4 sae for a starter pack including details on local clubs, fixtures lists and what to do at your first event. Compass Sport (0181-892 9429; e-mail

compass_sport@dial.pipex.com) is Britain's national orienteering magazine, with extensive coverage of the national and international race scene and related events, such as mountain marathons and mountain bike orienteering.

No special clothing is needed to start orienteering, although tracksuit trousers and trainers are sensible. Competitive orienteers often wear studded shoes and galters over Lycra leggings. You need a rollerball pen for marking the course on your map, a compass and a clear polythene bag to use as a map case. The map and control card are supplied by the organisers, covered by a modest entry

Orienteering takes place all over the country, but the bigger the terrain the better. This weekend, World Cup races are being held in the Lake District and in

If you don't fancy jogging, the Trail Cyclists Association (01531 632650) arranges 70 mountain bike orienteering events a year in the UK; the Porelle/ Polaris Challenge (01246 240218) is a twoday off-road bike orienteering event held three time a year. Combining your skills, events such as the Salomon X-Mountain Adventure (01256 479555) offer biking, kayaking, hiking and orienteering over a two-day wilderness course. There are six held throughout Europe - the next one

takes place in Scotland from S-7 June.

1999 the World Championships come to

Scotland, which has ideal conditions.

Wheels on wheels

It's not rocket science - it's more complicated than that. Simon Calder tries to unravel the arcane rules for cyclists hoping to take their bikes by train

One sunny July morning in 1978, British Rail unexpectedly announced that the natural alliance between trains and bikes should be consummated forthwith. With a generous gesture. BR decreed that bicycles could travel free with their owners nn all trains. As cyclists know to tbeir cost, railways have been backpedalling on that decision for the past 20 years. First commuter and high-speed trains

were restricted, then a charge was imposed for travel on InterCity services. New train designs seemed intended to thwart attempts to carry a cycle aboard.

Untangling the rules in the aftermath of privalisalinn is even more complicated than the Rocket science applied by Stephenson. People planning lo let the train lake the bike have to plan well in advance and quite possibly pay for the privilege. From the tangle of restrictions afflicting cyclists, these are the most important links in the chain.

Bikes go free on North Western Trains, Regional Railways North East and - from this summer - ScotRail. But as anyone who has tried to get a hike space on the Glasgow-inverness line in summer will know, you must book io

advance on long-distance services. The other good guys are local and commuter trains operated by Cardiff Railways, Chillern, Connex. Great Eastern, LTS, Söverlink, Thameslink, Thames Trains and WAGN. Bikes go free off-peak, with no need to reserve space. The same applies on South West Trains, except for a few diesel services.

Most long-distance trains, including all services operated by GNER, Midland Mainline and Virgin Trains, insist that you book in advance in and pay £3 for the privilege. A trick here is to use alternative services where no charge is made: North Western between Sheffield and Chesterfield, Silverlink nr Chiltern from Birmiogham to Loodon, ScotRail between Glasgow and Carlisle.

A couple of oddities: on Anglia Railways, local services east £1, while InterCity trains cost £3 - and for these you must book in advance. Central Trains accepts hikes free on lines sponsored by local authorities (around Birmingham, and in Nottinghamshire), hut charges £3 elsewhere. Great Western and Wales & West charge £1 if you book in advance, but £3 if you just turn up with your hike (and space is available).

On the London Underground, the culculations get really complex and involve the method of construction (which affects the size of trains). There is no charge for bikes, but there are lots of restrictions on times and lines.

On cut-and-cover lines (Circle, District, Metropolitan), cycles are allowed off-peak. On the remaining tube lines, hikes are allowed outside rushhour on trains between surface stations: Hammersmith to Acton Town is fine. Victoria to Euston isn't.

The real horoes and villains in the bikes-on-trains saga are all railways serving airports in the London area. The Gatwick and Heathrow Expresses carry

cycles free any time. But oo the Stansted SkyTrain from Liverpool Street station

in the Essex airport, hikes are banned. The easy way to long and winding series of rules is to huy a folding hike. I invested £400 in the remarkable Brompton bicycle, which compresses to the size of a briefcase (OK, a quite-large briefcase, but modest enough to have been taken it as hand luggage on a KLM flight). We have travelled happily everywhere together - until one morning at King's Cross when I approached the 7.30am to Newcastle a few minutes before

departure with the hijou Brompton. "Have you got a ticket for that bike?

"Nn. I didn't think I needed one." "Well you do."

As the minutes ticked away, and we stood discussing the malter beside the completely empty guard's van, I proffered £3 to buy one. "No, you have to reserve a space at

the ticket office." I duly booked a space, missed the train, and bave managed to avoid

travelling on GNER ever since. A brighter attitude to cycling was demonstrated this week by Connex. South Eastern, which on Wednesday launched a new initiative on its trains between London and Kent. The "Ticket to Ride" combination allows daytrippers simultaneously to book a train ticket and reserve a bike from any station in the region to Tonbridge and Canterbury, where the cycle will be waiting.

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The beach before Baywatch

On Clacton pier there's a stern warning not to dive into the sea from the pier's sides or support struts. The warning notice ends with the words: "The pier proprietors and the District Council accept no liability for persons indulging in this foolish activity." And that firmly sets the tone for this part of England's east coast. Brighton has gone trendy, Cornwall inspires artists and Blackpool has been remarketing itself as post mod-ern kitseh but Clacton and Frinton are proper, old-fashioned, nononsense resorts where holiday makers are known to be ill-mannered beasts from cities - and need to be told what to do.

In Clacton there are eafés that still warn patrons not to bring in their own bread and butter and proudly declare that they are "not a self-service establishment". And they are further instructed "please remain in your seats and wait to be hetped".

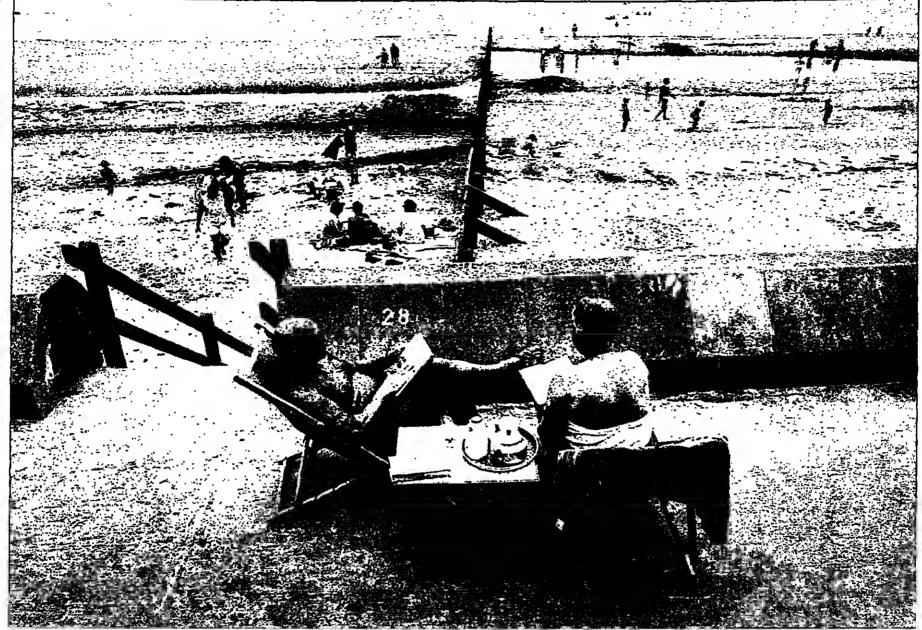
Such cafés not only like to keep their customers in their place hut don't believe in bourgeois Continental pretensions - instant coffee is served in white Pyrex coffee cups. plastic flowers in plastic vases are the extent of design or theming, and they would never dream of serving fancy nonsense like microwaved lasagne. What sort of a meal is that, when people could be eating wholesome egg and chips or meat pies?

Clacton has made some concessions to modern fleshpottery, with vast gaming areades and discos lurking in the basements of the big pinkwashed hotels. But the arcades still have the old Penny Waterfalls alongside Virtual Reality and you just know that the hotel discos will have DJs who talk hetween the records and play "Three Times A Lady".

Although the pier and promenades are sturdily Edwardian, there is an overriding sense of being back into late Fifties England, when notions like topless sunbathing or clubs that stay open after lam would be greeted with blank incomprehension. But Clacton is a San Antonio, com-

pared with Frinton next door. Frinton District Council ferociously enforces a bye-law that forhids the huilding or opening of any commercial establishment along the mile of its front. The coast road is all discreet, rose-bordered hungalows - low rise blocks of sheltered housing and some astounding outhursts of Thirties architecture surrounded by illac and more roses. There are lovingly cared for character.

Frinton-on-Sea has a 'strand', not a beach, and no modern nonsense like surfboards. Annie Caulfield visits this most genteel of English resorts



pleasingly large number of those white, curvy houses that took like cruise liners - the type of house that rich victims in Agatha Christie books

Between the road and the lower promenade is a steep, grassy slope on which hundreds of old-fashioned beach huts nestle. They're pink, white, pale blue, apple green, teak veneer ... Each one has a distinct and

on the front porch of their beach buts and look out over a clean breakwaters. Nothing to worry them but the occasional group of parts of the country walking the as shore.

On a fine day, elderly couples sit somehow, calling it a beach seems as inappropriate as saying, "alright mate", to one of the colonel types swathe of sea, sand and wooden taking constitutionals along the prom. Frinton is a strand, definitely nothing so hucket-and-spadey odd-looking characters from other vulgar as a seaside, or as American

One might enjoy a swim here, in We odd-looking characters were a sensible and vigornus fashion, very over-excited to find we had so provided one isn't sporting a too much beach to ourselves. Although, hrightly coloured hathing suit - oh If Alan Bennett went to the seaside, he'd go to Frinton, along with the Queen Mother and the older characters

from 'The Archers'

definitely bathing suits in Frinton, or, bathing dress, but no G-strings or unnecessary cleavages. And no confusing the local residents with hizarre equipment like surfboards. A spot of quiet fishing would be encouraged, or dog walking but not jogging, snagging, volleyball or, heaven forhid, jet skis.

This is a place where picnics are still ham sandwiches with a flask of One might enjoy a swim here... but only in a sensible and vigorous fashion Photograph: Edward Sykes

where the fright of a Frisbee still raises startled heads from newspaper

reading.

If you did do something untoward, like turn exuberant cartwheels, as a friend of mine felt compelled to after ingesting excessive ozone, the tocals wouldn't turn nasty or make a scene. They'd smile slightly, with baffled, very British politeness and turn away, pretending

Nothing happens here, it's not supposed to. The local paper had front page news of a forthcoming garden fête

There was something wonderful about being greeted with a courteous, cheery "good afternoon" by every passer-by. And in having discovered a stretch of coast that remains gloriously and resolutely eccentric. If Alan Bennett went to the seaside, he'd go to Frinton, along with the Queen Mother and the older characters from The Archers, although Frinton is really much more Mrs Dale's Diary.

Nothing happens here, it's not supposed to. The local paper had front page news of a forthcoming garden fête, the girls' school sponsored walk for new nethall equipment, and the startling revelation of faulty water pipes in several public conveniences. Incidentally. Frinton has about one public convenience per half-dozen people; I don't know if this reflects on the elderly nature of its inhabitants and visitors, or is just plain considerate hospitality.

By not standing for any foolish behaviour, like attempts to commercialise, develop or admit the existence of decades after the Sixties, Frinton has kept itself pure - a pretty, unspoilt and gently soothing place to visit.

It's like a mad old aunt in a print frock you laugh at but always want tea and maybe a sticky bun. A place to give a great big hug.

A mystical magical tour



The Bizarre Bath walking tour, now in its sixth season

It's Bath as you've never seen it - with a mix of street theatre, escapology stunts and audience participation. Muthena Paul Alkazraji joins a comedy walk

On a stretch of uneven stone paving flags near Bath's Bog Island 60 people mill around in the dusk waiting for the start of the Bizarre Bath comedy walking tour. Through the crowd breezes a six foot man wearing a hright purple blazer and carrying two purple party halloons. He then stands up on a milk crate and introduces himself as JJ. "So, where have you all come from?" he enquires. After a few cautious replies from a number of US and Australian tourists, someone boldly pipes up: "I'm from Bristol with a party" "Well I wouldn't boast about it," gulps JJ. The irreverent tone of the evening is set. We move off en masse.

Along a narrow alley opposite the city's famous Sally Lunn's tea shop we reassemble for our first address. "There is a numour that we on Bizarre Bath don't know any history. That's not true," he says. "That's Sally Lunn's ... and she has nice buns." He then dons a blindfold and announces his intention of seeking an intersection of two of the city's ley lines, and he heads off waving his arms around like wild antennae.

Beneath the south transept of an illuminated Bath Abbey, our guide draws the crowd around him and assures us that an ancient Celtic marking on the stone courtyard indicates such an intersection of ley lines. The

this point an American woman lets slip a raucous peal of laughter. He informs us that further proof, should we need it, can be demonstrated by the site's capacity to suffuse imperviousness to physical pain. He then produces a lit cigarette, and with consummate sleight of hand-magic presses it into his clenched fist. We applaud convinced.

Bizarre Bath was conceived and written by a former Young Magician of the Year and street performer Noel Britten, who leads the walk on some weekday evenings. He and our guide IJ originally met at conventions of magic, the art of which, along with stand-up comedy and a thread or two of local history, is cleverly woven into the comedy walk. "Noet had the idea of doing a street show at night, and doing it in a walk around the town to avoid the locals complaining about the noise," says II. "This is now our sixth season." The city's newspaper has called it "an enormously entertaining piece of street theatre".

The walk continues through Bath's streets using comic ad-libs and crowd participation, including an escapology stunt in the river Avon. Nearing the Abbey once more, IJ informs us outside the Huntsman Inn every evening at that if we do not want to be seen for the obvious tourists we are, we could comply with ther information call 01225 335124.

marking is a dried spot of seagull mess. At a local bylaw which all Bathonians respect: the requirement of hopping across Cheap Street. The sight of 60 grown men and women bounding on one leg across a dark side street clearly bewilders three loitening youths.

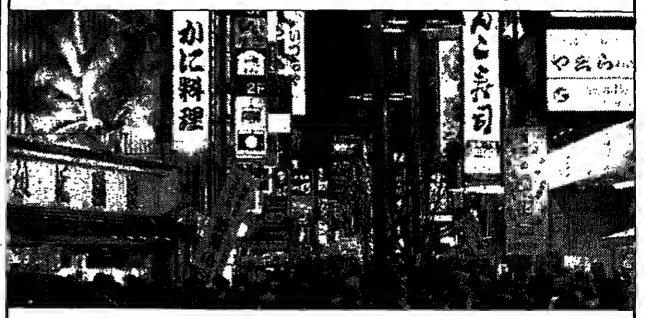
Outside the Roman Baths we are given a brief account of the healing pilgrimages once made to the city's hot springs. "Unfortunately, the most prevalent disease of the day was leprosy. After a while, the situation became terribly unpleasant with the accumulation of body parts floating around in the water," says JJ. Placating the water goddess, Sulis Minerva, involved wrapping personal valuables in holy Roman papyrus before throwing them into the waters. Our guide borrows a ring, wraps it in papyrus, and, to prevent it sinking in the water, attaches it to his purple helium balloon. At this point he trips over his milk crate, and the ring floats away over the rooftops into the black night sky. Its owner is clearly unnerved. Sworn as I am to secrecy, I can, nevertheless, reveal that the decouement is pure magic.

The Bizarre Bath Comedy walk leaves from 8 pm. No pre-booking is required. For fur-

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Plot please birds

Feathered friends usually get plenty of food in our gardens, but what about shelter? Anna Pavord finds out how to plant for a sanctuary

Being nice to birds must be part of our the blur has the red bit under the wing portant as food, said Robert Burton. A does not necessarily mean abandoning national psyche. The RSPB has more or the white bit under the throat that other wildlife conservation group in Europe. In fact we seem to be a great deal nicer to birds than they are to each other. Every day some battle rages outside my window: a mob of small birds attack a hawk, sparrows brawl in the driveway, a magpie raids a nest.

They need us to be nice to them, says Robert Burton, author of the recently published Birdfeeder Garden. It is some compensation for what is happening to their natural habitats. Gardens, and there are about 38 million of them in Britain, are important for food and nesting.

week to sort out what was lurking there in the bird line and to tell me what I could do to belp them. The obvious ooes - blackbirds, thrushes, robins, wrens, woodpeckers, magpies, house sparrows, jackdaws, rooks, pigeons, collared doves, blue tits - are oot difficult to spot. The problem (for me at least) lies with the other brown streaks and blurs that occasionally flash, unrecognised, through the undergrowth.

It is rather shameful, un-neighbourty, to have shared a patch all these years with creatures you can't put a name to. The problem with birds, though, is that they woo't stand still. There is only the briefest of moments to decide whether

members - just over a million - than any makes all the difference to identification. Binoculars are oot usually to hand when you are gardening. Even when I am not, I find that by the time I have a nice orderly disorder" are what they got the things to my eyes and adjusted are looking for. the focus, the bird has moved on half a mile, and I am left casting around in the sky like a mad astronomer.

I learned to recognise goldcrests, which was a step forward. They had probably been attracted by the yew trees in our garden, said Mr Burton. Goldcrests like yews (and other conifers such as spruce) and sling their nests from the branches. A pair of them were working Mr Burton came to our garden last . purposefully through a big pear tree, clearing out insects. That made me feel well disposed towards goldcrests. I'd preoil wash dripping all over my hair.

At the moment the garden is swarm-

ing with wrens. Or perhaps the same wren, extremely nifty on its feet. The crazy thing about the wreo is the amount of noise it can make. It has all the attributes of a sergeant major bursting out of the body of a fairy. Wrens like holes in walls, piles of brushwood, nothing too far off the ground, for their nesting sites. I bave sometimes found their nests. - bails of moss mostly wedged behind ivy on a retaining wall.

Nesting sites in a garden are as im-

bird-table attracts birds but, for them, it is like a meal in a restaurant. A bome implies more complex requirements. "Privacy, air, shelter from direct sun and

Disorder they have in quantity. I am glad that something is benefiting from the unraked leaves, the piles of unspread farmyard manure and stacks of uncut firewood that punctuate the garden. All these places are bliss for insects and provide breakfast, hunch and tea for many of the birds. Anis, which create havoc on the lawn in summer, were probably the magnet for the pair of green woodpeckers that are feeding there, said Mr Burton.

In terms of food, the greatest asset fer they did the job than me, with tar cerned, is a wide variety of plants. This garden with their blossom and fruit be-

The Big Garden Birdwatch.

of the Royal Society for the

Protection of Birds, aims to

organised by the junior members

provide a snapshot of birds visiting

British gardens. This year's survey

took place in January and shows

garden plants and going native. Mr Burton pointed out bow quickly birds adapt to the potential of introduced plants - even something as strange as the crown imperial (Fritillaria imperialis). Tve seen tits and blackcaps going in for the nectar, almost as though they were hummingbirds," be said. But the ubiquitous Leyland provides nothing by way of food, though it gives some cover for birds. If you can, advised Mr Bur-

holly and hawthorn instead. Anything that fruits (such as holly and hawtborn) is good for birds. Io a small garden, e crab apple, an elder or a rowan would be my first choice. None of them takes up much room, and to a garden, as far as birds are con- all make a double contribution to the

that the top 10 most common

birds to visit gardens across the

country are (in descending order):

the starling, house sparrow, blue tit, blackbird, chaffinch, greenfinch,

great tit, robin, collared dove and

ton, use a mixture of field maple, hazel,

fore eventually providing food for birds A bird-table in winter.

Some cotoneasters, although not but, for them, native, also attract birds. The fishbone it is like a cotoneaster, C. horizontalis, is one of the meal in a best and is a handsome, neat-leaved shrub. The variegated versioo is even prettier, but unfortunately oever seems to set fruit. Honeysuckle is useful. Although we scarcely notice the berries, they provide food for warblers, thrushes and bullfinches. Thrusbes also like the berries of ivy, which fill a food gap in late winter. Robins and blackcaps feed on them, too, and the flowers attract a staggering number of insects, which in turn pull in different birds.

As for the rooks, my favourite birds, there is little you can do to attract them, said Mr Burton. They come and go as they please. Now there are no elms, they live in beeches and sycamores. They are by far the most entertaining of the birds in our garden.

Birdfeeder Garden by Robert Burton, ispublished by Dorling Kindersley at £14.99. If there isn't enough natural food in your garden to attract birds, Robert Burton recommends a bird-table and menus to order from CJ Wild Bird Foods Ltd. The Rea, Upton Magna, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4UB (01743 709545). RSPB is at The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL (01767 80551).

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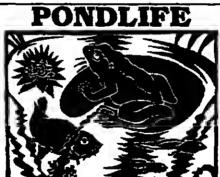
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WEEKEND WORK

hate frost can be sown now. There is at least a fighting chance that we won't have snow in June. Sow French beans, setting them three inches apart in rows 18 inches apart. Sow sweetcorn in blocks. setting the seeds 19 inches apart in rows 18 inches apart. Some growers find it an advantage to spread a sheet of black polythene over the ground first and plant through holes cut in the sheet. I hate the industrial air that black polythene brings to a garden so cannot vouch

All the vegetables that

Sow hiennials such as sweet william, forgetme-nnt, foxglove and honesty and perennials (aquilegias, violas, primulas) outside now to flower next year. Move the plants to their permanent positions in early August.

for the technique myself.

Watch out for blackfly homing in on the broad beans and pinch out the tips of the plants where

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necessary. Aphids are also clustering under the new leaves of my gooseberry bushes. giving all the new shoots a wrinkled, diseased appearance. I hove been waiting for birds end ladybirds to deal with the problem but they are evideotly husy elsewhere. I shall have to spray with Rapid (ICI) instead.

Oceans of bedding plants are now flooding into garden centres. Before you buy, check that the compost in the trays has not shrunk away from the sides and that the plants are hushy, compact, firm and a good colour. There should not be a mat of roots hanging out of the bottom of the tray. Resist the temptation to buy plants that are already in flower. They will not give such a long display as those that are allowed to settle before they start performing. Before planting, add a handful of general purpose fertiliser such as

Growmore to each

square yard of ground.

The green party

Next weekend, London's private gardens will open their gates to the public. It promises to be a day of wine and roses for all, says Patricia Cleveland-Peck

London's secret gardens are intriguing green and leafy squares locked up behind railings, to which few have access. Yet next Sunday, 7 June, many of these gardens will open their gates to admit the general public as part of the first London Garden Square Day. For the modest cost of a £3 passport ticket (£1 for children), we shall all be able to explore more thao 40 urbao retreats.

Visitors will have access to such spaces as the Dwarf Orchard Wildlife Garden, sandwiched between the inner and outer walls of Greenwich Park. A narrow strip of about an acre, it originally contained an orchard of dwarf apple trees planted by Charles II's gardener in 1662. A mulberry tree said to be 400 years old dominates the garden which is now a remarkable urban wildlife sanctuary with ponds, a tree nursery, bechives and resident foxes.

Dove Gardens in London SW5 is annther small and very private place.

Among the evergreens which have beeo planted io keeping with the original Victorian plan, refreshments will be served and ao art exhibition staged.

13/GARDENING

Belgrave Square, London SW1, was laid out by the Victorian builder Thomas Cubitt and was from the outset a most desirable address. Spoil from St Katherine's Dock in Wapping was used to raise the levels of the four-acre site and create a green space. Now there is a sunken garden and pergolas covered with roses, wisteria and passion flowers. On 7 June, live music from the Zephyrus Wind Ensemble will entertain visitors as they stroll beneath the enormous plane trees.

Plane trees have played o central role in the greening of London's streets and squares. It was the Victorian horticulturist J C Loudon who wrote in Observations on Laying out the Public this tree to shed its bark would enable gardens are - so secret, yet inviting."

it to survive the polluted etmosphere

of the city. Several such trees are to be

found in Manchester Square. London

W1, where visitors will be able to en-

joy Pimms and strawberries while lis-

tening to the Saturn Wind Trio. The London Garden Square Day is in itself is a triumph of enthusiasm over adversity. Ten years ago, its creator Caroline Aldiss was struck down with ME. "It was a nightmare, I felt claustrophobie in illness," she said. Her solace was to go and sit in the gardens of the square where she lived. "While Squares of London that the ability of I was there I thought, how lovely these

Caroline knew it would be unacceptable for all the squares to admit the general public, but the idea of a special day when they could open for charity took root in her mind. After some research, she discussed the matter with Andy Wimble, Parks and Gardens advisor to English Heritage, who agreed to co-sponsor the event, as did the London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust. Endorsements began to flood in. Prince Charles, Tony Blair and Alan Clark (whose Kensington and Chelsea constituency has a large number of private gardens) were among those who

importantly, more and more squares answered the invitation to join in. Caroline had a clear vision of London en sête and, above all, she wanted the event to be a celebration of local communities. Money raised from the day will go to a number of charities, meanwhile the public will get a rare opportunity to see some of the capital's hidden treasures.

THE INDEPENDENT SATURDAY 30 MAY 1998

For full details of participating gardens contact the London Tourist Board on 0839 123410 (49p per minute at all times). Tickets can be purchased from the garden squares on the day sent letters of encouragement. Most



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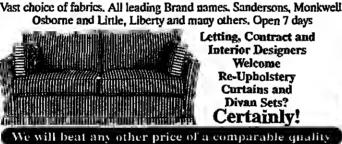
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The International Library of Poetry has test announced that it is sponsoring an memational Amsteur Poetry Competition in the United Kingdom and Ireland. There will be eight competitions this year open to all amateur poets. Entry to the competitions is free and there is no purchase requirement o win one of 70 prizes, including a

£1,000.00 Grand Prize. How to Enter Anyone may enter the competiti simply by sending in only one original

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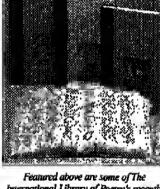
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all enquiries must be sent to the address below.) The poem should be no more than twenty lines, must be typed or neatly primed, and the poet's name and address must appear at the top of the page. Poems must be the original work of the submitting author and will not be returned. Closing date for applications is the last day of this menth. Any entries received after this date will be submitted in the following competition. All poets who enter will

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£1,000.00 Grand Prize, ten Second Prizes of alone. £50.00 each, and 59 Third Prize gifts with a publication of their poem in this beautiful competition."



International Library of Poetry's recently

published dehace hardbound anthologies. edition through their purchase of a copy (a pre-publication discount will be available). Every poem remains the exclusive property of its author. Anthologies published by the organisation include: A Lasting Calm, Awaken to a Dream, and Jewels of the Imagination, among others.

World's Largest Poetry Organisation The international Library of Poetry, the international affiliate of The National Library of Poetry (founded to the United States in 1987 to promote the work and achievements of contemporary poets), publishes poetry and sponsors competitions around the world. In recent years they have All the poems entered into the awarded prize money to more than 5,000 competition will be judged on originality, poets in over 60 countries. In the next 12 months they will award £12,000.00 in cash artistic expression. In addition to the prizes in the UK and Ireland competitions

"It's always exciting to discover new £28.00 value will also be awarded. All 70 talent," stated Howard Ely, Managing Editor prize winners will be featured in a beautiful, of The International Library of Poetry. hardbound anthology to be published at the "We're especially interested in poems from conclusion of the competition. And what's new or unpublished poets, I arge everyone more, non-winners may guarantee who is interested in poetry to enter this

For further information and to receive a copy of the rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The International Library of Poetry, FAO: Competition Rules, 4 Cremers Road, Dolphin Park, Sittinghourne, Kent ME10 3HB

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The perfect match

Interior decorator Sarah Doe harmoniously complements her husband's furniture. By Catherine Stebbings

Tim and Sarah Doe have the ultimate show home. A furniture-maker and interior decorator, respectively, they are a symbotic husbandand-wife team, sharing clients and design interests, and for three years they have been working hard on their Somerset farmhouse. Their warm, Aga-heated kitchen is a testament to their talents.

Sarah has painted the walls in a honey coloured wash and decorated Tim's kitchen units in a distressed moss green that can withstand both mucky children, the black lahrador and all the usual stresses of a country kitchen. The floor is American stencilled duvet covers in Camden Lock than staggering around the auction houses in a maker of good strong English furniture – search of the perfect wardrobe.

The floor is American at maker of good strong English furniture – search of the perfect wardrobe.

The floor is American at maker of good strong English furniture – search of the perfect wardrobe. perfect setting for the large oxbow table also made by him. It is the sort of kitchen most paint effects on walls. people dream about.

ed furniture or paint effects and end up ordering one of Tim's tables." A wander ent in the spectacular scenes painted on walls around downstairs reveals more. There is a and especially on furniture. lovely drawing room with rustic, terracotta washed walls, a very convincing stone blocked hallway in mellow ochre akin to the local stone, painted furniture, wooden floors and of her work is done on modern pine furniture tables to die for. It is all very simple; noth- which has just enough detail in it to make it ing pretentious, smart or unnecessary, just a interesting. She will age it using a combina-

home with a soul. Sarah has specialised in paint effects tress them until they give the desired effect since her early apprenticeship with an Knight-



Photograph: John Lawrence

al painting, painted furniture and standard

The Doe family at home in their work

While much of her painted furniture is As Sarah explains "Our house is effectively distressed or aged, some include small our show piece. People come to see my paint- motifs like ageing roses or a sprinkle of faded daisies. Her artistie taleot is most appar-

Sarah will transform any piece of furniture but insists that it must be a well made in the first place. The shape is very important. Much tion of colours, all mixed by her, and then dismaking the furniture look as if it has been bridge interior designer in the Eighties. handed down through generations, nicely Things have come a long way since she sold faded and well worn. This seems a lot easier

Tim's passion is wood. He trained as a boat builder, but one of his first projects was to make a wooden roof for his Morris Minor. Since then he has turned his attention to interiors; stunning wooden flooring, kitchens and traditional English furniture, primarily tables, in old pine, old oak and elm. His sturdy oxbow tawith enough marks, grooves and rough edges to make you wonder if they aren't as old as the house.

Most of the wood comes from reclamation yards or scrapped barns and boats. Tim loves the different characteristics of wood: "the strength and swirl of the grain, the tone, the strength ". All the wood is treated with a caustic solution which chills whatever worm there

may be and evens the tones of the wood.

surprise to find his other love is Shaker-style furniture. Unfortunately, Shaker furniture demands more specialised woods, such as cher-

ry, so the price rises accordingly. Perhaps the most appealing aspect of the Doe businesses is that both Sarah and Tim work to specification making almost anything bles are magnificent, solid traditional pieces possible. "Teo years ago," says Sarah, "everyone wanted me to do ragging or sponging, at the moment everyone seems to be looking for that old faded look or the stone blocking emulating the blocks of stone that are hidden beneath the plaster."

Tim and Sarah Doe, Maesdown Farmhouse, Evercreech, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 6EG (01749 831225). Tables are made to order, prices start around £425. Quotes given for He does not profess to be a designer but both painted furniture and interior decoration.

The tartars of cream

A taste of ... the West Country. Nikki Spencer observes the gentle cream wars between Devon and Cornwall

Gooey yellow cream with a crust oo top may oot sound very appetising. But few visitors to Devon and Cornwall leave without having sampled a traditional cream tea - and as far as the locals are concerned, the lumpier that cream, the better it is.

"Some people do find the idea of the crust on clotted cream worrying. They think it's gone off and even try to scrape it away," says Philip Rodda, whose family has been making clotted cream commercially near Redruth in Cornwall for more than 100 years. "But as far as I am concerned the crust is the best hit. It tastes richer and has a nice, almost nutty, texture."

He says the West Country tradition of clotted cream has much to do with the area's ahundance of rich milk. Yet no one, it seems, is quite sure where the art of making what Gladstone called "the food of the gods" originated. One theory is that it came with the Phoenicians when they arrived to trade for tin

The longstanding friendly rivalry between Devon and Cornwall is reflected in clotted cream, Both counties claim it as their own and both maintain that theirs is the best. Custom has it that a true Cornishman will always spread oo the jam first and

top it with cream, while a Devonian will do the reverse.

Clotted cream trails Roskilly's, Tregeliast Barton, St Keverne, Helstoo, Cornwall (01326 280479). The Roskilly family makes clotted cream icecream and fudge with milk from Jersey cows. Visitors can have a cream tea in The Croust House Restaurant ("croust" is the Cornish name for food that was taken out to the farmworkers in the fields). As well as the usual scones, they serve "thunder and lightning", a Cornish speciality of a split with clotted cream and syrup. Entry to the farm is free. ■ Rodda and Son, The Creamery, Scorrier, Nr Redruth, Cornwall (01209 820526). Rodda's has been supplying cream by post since the Twenties; regular recipients include the Queen Mother. You can sample it next Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Royal Cornwall Show in Wadehridge (01208 812183 for

further details). For traditional Devon clotted cream try Weston's at Kersdown Barton, Bampton, near Tiverton (01398 331272). This family farms sells direct to the public.

More than a dozen places serving cream teas in Devon and Cornwall are featured in The Tea Council's guide, Best Tea Places 1998 (price £5.99 from The Tea Council on 0171-248

GAMES

Why do we pay for wordscarch compilers to conceal words in arrays of letters so that we can rediscover them? Or pay jigsaw manufacturers to saw a (usually pretty) picture into 1,000 pieces just so that we cao

put them together again? It is for the same reason a child gets so much glee when she catches you out with a trick questions such as:

Q1: How do you get down from a horse? ... and why the cruciverbalist derives such excruciating pleasure from inventing cryptic clues along the lines of:

Q2: I may have it (3) Clearly the concealing and finding of clues is fundamental to human nature and people have a deep urge to create and solve puzzles.

This is not a modern phenomenon. Riddles, for example, permeate all cultures. History is riddled with them. The ancients held riddle contests much in he same way as we challenge each other over a pint o such lateral sophistries as: 23: What runs fore to aft on one side of a ship

and aft to fore on the other side? Perhaps the most famous classical puzzle of all ime is the riddle of the Sphinx as solved by

CHRIS MASLANKA THE PUZZLE OF PROBLEM-SOLVING

Q4: What creature moves on all fours in the morning, on two feet at noon and on three toward the setting of the sun?

Why puzzles are engaging is a puzzle in itself. Aristotle puts his classical finger on a couple of important clues. First he opines that a love of riddles reflects the human teodency to make metaphor, secood that they teach us something.

Man has evolved to be a problem-solver. Animals particularly young ones - exercise, in play, skills that they will later use in earnest. Play provides a safe arena where the imperfections in skills such as chasing, scrapping or escaping do not lead to serious consequences. Young children running and clambering over climbing frames are practising their physical skills. Language, jokes and puzzles are merely the mental form of this activity - the intellect at play.

But isn't play for children! Shouldn't we grownups obey that spoilsport St Paul and put away childish things?

I think not. The world is perceivable in an infinity of ways and we can only handle it by categorisation. We view it through filters or, as neuropsychologists say, templates. As we age we get more rigid in our mental hahits and it becomes increasingly difficult to see things in new ways.

In challenging the rigidity of our conceptual boundaries, puzzles not only rejuvenate and refresh, they also tell us a great deal about how we think and perceive, which is why they are of such crucial interest to educationalists, psychologists, mathematicians, artists - anyone interested in ig about thinking.

What is it, for example, about the way we think that makes the following so counter-intuitive? Q5: t know Bill has two children. He has told me that at least one of them is a boy. What are the chances that the other is a girl? - Well?

1. You don't: you get down from a duck. 2 Dot.

3. The name of the ship. (Either that or a drunken sailor, probably the one whose use at our hands is so philosophically discussed in the sea shanty.) 4. Man: he walks on all fours as a haby, two legs as a young man, and uses a stick when old.

5. Two in three. Chris Maslanka will be presenting "Puzle Panel" - a new series on BBC Radio 4 beginning on Thursday 4 June at 1.30 pm, repeated Sunday 7 June at 11 pm.

PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

John Brown, 44, publisher.

I used to play a lot of cricket for the Virgin Casuals, which I started when I worked for Richard Branson. A frieod and I were appalled that the proper virgin team took it all so scribusly. They shouted at us when we dropped catches, so we started the Casuals as a protest. It exists as a team to this day, and is quite successful, except that none of the players work for, or have anything to do with

But the two most interesting games I've ever played were ones that were made up. I went to school at Westminster, and one term we invented a game called Nelgeing the Flune, which we pretended was a very old school game that we'd rediscovered. It was a hit like lacrosse, except that you played it with tennis rackets and a ceremonial rugby ball. The Times came and wrote it up and

The other game was about two years ago, when the Viz team and I went to a

Devon, which is like staying at a private house where you don't have to do the washing up. A number of people had asked us for a Viz film, and we thought we'd go down there and write a script. We spent about four days in Devon

charming hotel called Huntsham in

which was absolutely useless, because we couldn't write a script to save our lives. Instead, we invented a game called Stick Bongo which we played for hours on the lawn every day. You each have a cricket stump, and you have to kick a football and try to hit the other person's stump. We meant to copyright the game and make a fortune, but we never did, which is why I'm not going to tell you the secret rules.

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John Brown's participation in cricket is now limited to his publishing "Wisden Cricket Monthly". He claims that its cover price buys "the best cricket magazine there is". Available from all good newsagents. However, we're not going to tell you how much it costs.

CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

工工

28 Ng6+ Kg8

30 fxg6 Rdc7

32 Bc3 Red8

33 Kft Bc7

34 Re3 Bb6

35 Rf3 Qc7

36 Kg2 Rd6

38 g5 Ba5

40 gxh6 gxh6

46 Qc2 Qb4

49 Qcl + Kg7

50 h6+ Kh8

51 g7+ Kh7

52 Rg1 Rd8

29 f4 Nxg6

31 f5 Rd7

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II

五鱼丘

2 Nf3 Nc6

3 Bb5 a6

4 Ba4 Nf6

5 0-0 Bc7

7 d3 Nd7

9 Bb2 Bd6

11 Nc4 f6

13 Nf5 Bxf5

19 c3 Nc6

22 h5 h6

23 g3 Ne7

24 g4 c6

25 c4 BbS

8 b3 c5

6 Bxc6 dxc6

White: Garry Kasparov

Black: Peter Svidler

10 Nbd2 0-0 37 Rh3 R8d7

12 Nh4 Nb\$ 39 Bb2 Od8

14 exf5 Nc6 41 Qc3 bxc4

15 QB Qd7 42 bxc4 Qb8

16 Qc4 Kh8 43 Ba3 Bb4

17 Rfe1 b5 44 Bc1 Bc3

18 Nc3 Nd4 45 Qe2 Kg7

20 Rad1 Rad847 Kh1 Qa5

21 b4 Rfe8 48 Bxh6+ Kxh6

26 Ng2 Qb7 53 g8Q+ Rxg8

After disposing of the Israeli cam in a simultaneous lisplay last week. Garry Casparov found another pportunity to show his speed f thought in a blitz match gainst Peter Svidler, played ver the internel as part of ie celebrations of the 50th nniversary of the state of srael. Kasparov won both ames of the match, with a jost impressive hlend of rategy and tactics. articularly in the first game. In a quiet Exchange ariation of the Ruy Lopez, asparov seemed in danger of tting the game become too locked. He showed how erfectly he had judged the ntential of White's position hen, in the diagram position ter 37... R8d7, he pushed on

ith 38.g5! Now 38...fxg5 loses the etwn, while 38...hxg5 is met 39.h6, so Svidler tried to ep the game closed with ... Ba5, rather than allow unterplay with 45.Qxh6 e4. sparov kept his grip on the me and set up the lovely ish with 48.Bxh6+! At the end, Black is dead er either 54...Rxg7 hxg7+ Kxg7 56.Qh6+ and ite in three, or 54...Kh8 Qg1 Rd8 56.Qg6. Casparov must feel content

27 Nh4 Rd7 54 Rg7+ 1-0 h his trip to Israel, If he beat four grandmasters Alexei Shirov has taken the ultaneously, then, for an lead in the match to find a ore, play a masterpiece in challenger for Kasparov. He minutes, one wonders beat Vladimir Kramnik in 63 it he will do with plenty of e and only one opponent. moves in their fourth game.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Captured (6) Crops up (6) Type of sponge cake Religious song (4) 10 Compass point (4) 11 Animal (5) 13 Large wave (6) 14 Containing salt (6) Roofing material (6) Jail (6) Hirsute (5)

24 Wealth (6)

25 Come out (6)

Weighty volume (4)

Bundle of hay etc (4)

Domestic appliance (5-1)

DOWN Code (6)

Dress (4) Bed canopy (6) At the other side of (6) Lazy (4) Devious (6) Portable weapons (5,4) Would-be seducer of women (6-3) Sandy foreshore (5) Linger 15) Suppressed laugh (6)

17 Extol (6)

18 Pointer (6)

Persistently torment (6)

21 Engrave using acid (4) 22 Calibre (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Lady, 3 Sandbags (Ludies' handbags), 9 Copse, 10 Lacquer, 11 Lob, 13 Temperate, 14 Debate, 16 T-shirt, 18 Baltalion, 20 New, 22 Creches, 23 Abase, 25 Enhanced, 26 Meet DOWN: 1 Local, 2 Dip, 4 Aplomb, 5 Duchess, 6 Adulation, 7 Serpent 8 Best, 12 Behr-teeth, 14 Debade, 15 Teach-in, 17 Tissue, 19 Cent, 21 When 22 April 19 Cent, 21 Cent, 21 Cent, 21 Cent, 22 Cent, 21 Cent, 22 Cent, 21 Cent, 23 Cent, 24 Cent, 24 Cent, 25 Cent, suc. 19 Neal, 21 Wheat, 24 Ace.

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

Love all: dealer East Narth **4874 ♡AQJ** ♦A742 **41095** West East 4362 **♦**AKQ93 **798743** ♥105 2J653 O1098 ΦK **₽732** South **4105** ♥K62 **⋄ĸ**Q **♦**AQJ864

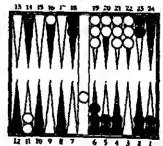
When you set out to construct a mousetrap, it is no good leaving the mouse an escape route. East overlooked this nn today's deal but he need not have worried, for declarer still swallowed the hait.

After a pass by East, South opened 14 and North responded 10. Now East joined in with t . hut South's jump to 34 kept West quiet. North tried 34 but, with no guard in the enemy suit, South repeated his clubs. Hoping for the best, North raised to 5 + and West led S +.

It was clear to East that the defence had at most two tricks to come in spades and the heart finesse (if required) would be right for declarer. The only real hope was that his partner held a top trump honour which undoubtedly would be a singleton. If it was the ace, no problem, but if it was the king? He thought quickly: if he won with AQ he would advertise his holding of A.K.Q and, after his initial pass, declarer would be sure to place West with +K if it was missing. So East won the first trick with A and cashed ♠ Q. Then he switched in ♦ 10. All went as planned:

declarer duly took a trump finesse and so went one down. What was the line of escape that East had failed to block off? Suppose that instead of playing trumps immediately, declarer had taken the precaution of crossing to dummy and ruffing the last spade. West's jack appears, the situation in the suit becomes clear, and \$K can be placed with West. And how could East have closed the loophole? By playing the spades as he did hat switching to a trump himself at trick three before declarer fathamed the true spade position.

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY



A chilly night in Baker Street saw Holmes in the box playing Black against myself and Inspector Lestrade. Our excellent game had somehow gone wroog and oow we found ourselves on the bar facing a 5-point board and with another hlot exposed.

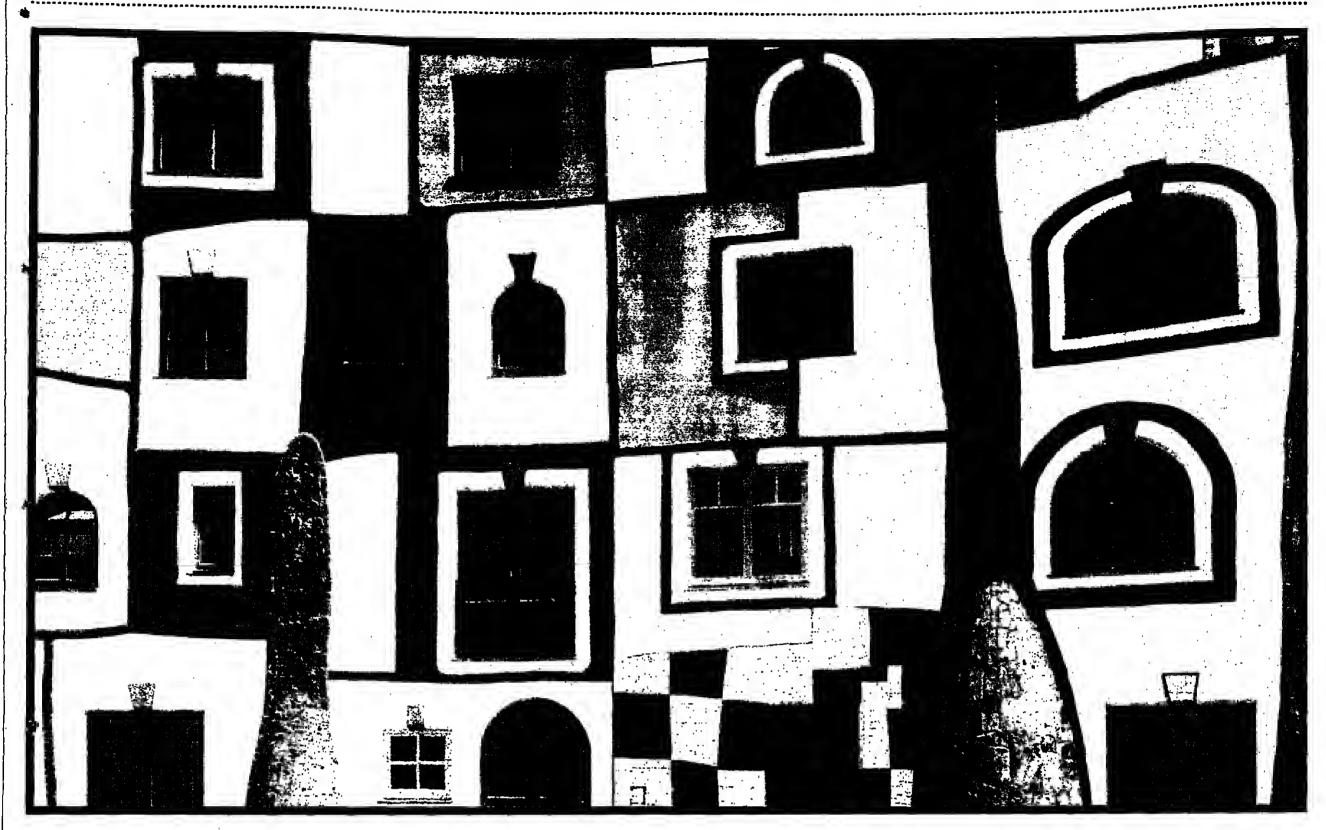
The great detective pondered for a couple of minutes, his face shrouded in the smoke from his meerschaum, and then he reached for the doubling cubes and turned them both to 4.

"Hmm, somewhat precipitate, I think you'll find," said Lestrade, snatching the cube. I studied the positioo for a while hul still thought that the basic structure of our position would give us a comfortable take. "I agree with Lestrade," said I. "For once Holmes"; I think you should have waited a roll."

Four rolls later we found ourselves with two men on the bar and easily lost a gammon. I have learnt to take my losses with equanimity hut not so Lestrade who felter he had been dealt a great injustice. "What luck, Mr. Holmes," he remarked. "No wonder you solve more cases than I do."

"No luck my dear fellow, hut rather a clear understanding of the position and its possibilities. White's position is superficially strong with its 4-point. board and two black men trapped but that feature will become largely irrelevant if I can attack and close out. two men. With one man already on the bar against a 5point hoard and another waiting to join it your position was precarious indeed. Black will win a lot of gammons. in this position and thus I doubled when I did to ensure I maximised my equity. Indeed it would not surprise

me to learn that the original position was a drop." "As lucid an explanation as ever," I remarked. "How complimentary, my dear Watson."



Suite dreams are made of this

From Mexican modernism to surreal spas in Austria, Nonie Niesewand checks in to designer label hotels around the world

A funny little no-name book on hotel design was published in the Eighties by a subversive American graphic designer called Dan Friedman. On his whistle-stop tour of the world taking pictures of hotel bedrooms, captions identified different hotels by name - the Sheraton, Hilton. Intercontinental - with their location. Flicking over the pictures, you discover that wherever in the world you went, the outlook was the same. Wall-to-wall beige. Baghdad or Boston, Agra or Zanzibar, carpets and cupboards, hedspreads, even those horrible slatted vertical blinds were all beige. The awfulness of that downmarket penthouse suite look was carefully cloned to conquer the world.

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too hold to put off the punter whose taste and style was unknown. No colour or pattern to distract them. But it's surprising that it took so long for hotels to buy into big, bold design.

Far-flung holiday destinations were the first to cash in on the vernacular architecture to style their hotels. Exotic Zen-style temples with scented flowers floating in private pools sprang up in Bangkok. Tree houses set up showers above game watering holes in Africa. English country house hotels flowered in chintz far from the country. Yet the avant garde design movement of the mid Eighties has only

Of course it was a marketing strategy. Nothing recently reached mainstream hotel chains in major

Hotel Design by Otto Riewoldt shows us which ones. Individual chapters focus on designer hotels, international business hotels, resort and theme hotels and luxury hotels. At least when you check into any one of the hotels featured you won't have to worry about a room with a view.

It was Ian Schrager in New York who made designer label hotels in cities the haunt of the paparazzi when he bought the sleazy old Royalton opposite the Algonquin. He threw out the dime-slot water beds and got French designer Philippe Starck to style it. And Starck customised every fixture and fitting from the horn-shaped handles to the velvet dining chairs on moon-probe feet.

Armchair travellers should turn to page 18 of Hotel Design to check out the latest Schrager/Starck hotel, the all-white Delano's in Miami. It is known as the sanatorium for exhausted super models, and you don't even have to leave home to buy into the look of the pallid paletted hotel. Most things Starck designed for Delano's can be found in selected furniture stores. The washbasins styled with a round white porcelain bowl atop a table on page 21 are available at CP Hart, in London. I know, I've just bought a pair. And Viaduct furniture in London stocks highsided, all-white linen-covered furniture that Starck designed for Delano's, made by Driade in Italy.

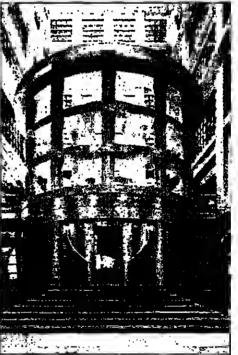
Now that Schrager has bought two buildings in London - the most under-bedded city in Europe to turn into hotels with Starck, it's worth checking out his two main rivals: The Hempel, designed by Anouschka Hempel (page 34), and the Met, designed by United Designers(page 46). Or cross to Potsdam and the Art'Otel (page 42) to see how British designer Jasper Morrison's sinuous and shapely furniture looks in the lobby. You can buy his furniture at Con-

Affronted by the bronze elephants standing next to Samson-scaled columns on real elephants' feet at Sun City in South Africa (page 158) I checked out swiftly to visit Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista (page 168). Aghast at post-modernist kitsch clapboard Robert Stern collaged together like a quilt on Disney's Boardwalk, I retreated to the Mexican modernism expressed in concrete columns and cubes coloured purple, pink, crimson and yellow at the Westin Regina Los Cabos. They call it the "architectural sculpture yard" which sounds like just the place to lie down and reflect upon style trials. Just reading Hotel Design makes me realise that I need

So I've picked my next dream holiday destination - the surreal Rogner-Bad Bluman spa in Austria, crowned with turrets, golden domes and battlements (page 73). Stepping inside must be like climbing into a Klimt. Truly awesome and, I suspect,

'Hotel Design', by Otto Riewoldt, is published by Laurence King at £45: C P Hart, Newnham Terrace, Hercules Road, London SE1 (0171-902 1000).

Rogner-Bad Blumau, Austria (top); Hyatt Regency, Japan (above left); Rey Juan Carlos I, Barcelona (above right); Point Hotel, Edinburgh (left)









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Britain there east 120 open to visitors Photograph:

Dawn of the sylvan age

In Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, private forests are increasingly being opened to the public. Duff Hart-Davis explores a passion for woodland

lic access. If rights of way ran through the property, I should of course keep them clear, but I tend to think of forests as secret places, to he disturbed by humans as little as possible - so the question of opening the place to all and sundry would take a bit of thought.

Nevertheless, 1 salute the growing band of owners who make their woods available, because they provide a tremendous amount of enjoyment and instruction. This was particularly evident on Monday, when Julian and Margaret Evans held their fourth woodland open day at Northdown Plantation, their 30-acre block in Hampshire.

A professional forester all his life, Professor Evans described in his book A Wood of Our Own the great delight he felt when

he was as infectiously enthusiastic as ever about his private domain. No matter that a fifth of its weight. "If you buy firewood he has specialised in tropical forestry and worked in 30 countries, among them Papua New Guinea and Ethiopia: in Hampshire he was on his own territory and thrilled to be welcoming 80 guests. They were a high-powered lot, and included several other professors of international repute: vet the occasion was essentially light-hearted, with plenty of children coming to learn and picnic.

A marked footpath led visitors on a tour of 12 way-points, at each of which a notice drew attention to trees or objects of particular interest. At one stop we found a simple weighing device and two short lengths of sycamore branch, one cut 18 months ago, the other two days before. The

water that had dried out of it: two kilos, of in winter," said the sign, "make sure you get seasoned logs."

The excellence of the beech, now over 40 years old, gave rise to much discussion about methods of controlling grey squirrels, which, if not efficiently suppressed, destroy trees by stripping the bark. The answer at Northdown has been Warfarinlaced wheat, deployed in specially-designed hoppers which birds and other rodents cannot tap.

Further on, a notice pointed out that beefsteak fungus had stained the wood of one oak, thus creating what the trade calls "brown oak", specially valued by antique furniture restorers, who use it as a naturally aged timber. Another stop drew

fell down years ago, but which must have been known to the novelist as she drove so on. in her horse and carriage along the lane from her village of Steventon.

The Evanses open their wood only once a year. But down in the Sussex High Weald, Chris and Anne Yarrow welcome the public to Wilderness Wood on every day of the calendar. He, too, is a professional forester and consultant, and Anne, though she originally studied geography and conservation, has picked up a rich harvest of knowledge along the way.

The Yarrows bought the ancient 61-acre wood in 1980, and four years later moved to a house inside it, so that they live, as Anne puts it, "above the shap". The people of Hadlow Down, the nearest village, are welcome to wander around at no charge - "they

If ever I owned a wood, I fear I might feel the realised his long-term ambition by active curring growth and the realised his long-term ambition by active curring Northdown in 1985; and this week to sleep in the hut he had constructed.

Somebow Mrs Yarrow has found time the strength of the realised his long-term ambition by active curring Northdown in 1985; and this week to sleep in the hut he had constructed. Somebow Mrs Yarrow has found time

The popularity of Wilderness Wood is proved by the numbers who come: 15,000 paying visitors a year, including 3,500 children on school excursions. The atmosphere is pleasantly relaxed: there is never anyone taking money at the entrance, and people are expected to buy tickets at the Barn, a timber-framed structure built by the Yarrows themselves.

Apart from trails, a permanent exhibition and frequent demonstrations of woodland practices, there are numerous events, some of the most popular being the "Castaway" days, on which children aged six-11 make primitive shelters, light camp fires and brew up sausages. One boy was so enthused that he insisted on taking his father from local bookshops and tourist centres.

East, an admirable booklet recently puhlished by the Forestry Trust for Conservation and Education, which gives details # of more than 120 woods open to visitors in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and south London. Basic information is spiced by her own short essays on silvicultural subjects, not least the effects of the 1987 hurricane, and the whole publication reflects the satisfaction which she, her husband, the Evanses and their like derive from sharing their woods with

Wilderness Wood, Hadlow Down, Uckfield, East Sussex (01825 830509); 'Exploring Woodlands in the South East' costs £2.50

NATURE NOTE

Cuckoos are back in action along the hedgerows. In the south of England the traditional date for their return from Africa is 16 April; this year they were about a week late, held back in their migration by cold winds from the north, but now they are nnce again hard at work, wrecking the nests of songbirds with their grotesque parasitic habits.

Let nobody think the cuckoo a benign harbinger of summer. Everything about it is sinister, from its menacing, hawk-like appearance, with its big head and powerful

neck, to its steady, level flight. It is only the male which gives the familiar, two-note call: the female makes a completely different, bubbling chuckle as she settles on a particular area and searches for the nests of foster-parents - hedge sparrow, robin, meadow pipit and many others - in which to lay her eggs. Not only does she evict one of the small bird's eggs from every nest: she also lays her own on the same day, and, by some extraordinary biological mechanism, varies its colour from bluey green to red and grey, with different

amounts of speckles, so that it more or less matches those of the fosterer.

The baby cuckoo hatches in only 12 or IB days, and, being far bigger than its companions, ejects them from the nest one by one. The foster parents work desperately to feed their one giant infant, and in only three weeks it flies away. Since a single cuckoo can lay at least 20 eggs during the summer, her destructive capacity is immense.

Duff Hart-Davis

What's on this weekend



Search for your sea-legs, check out a coracle and learn the difference between 3 Car's Paw and a Lark's head at the International Wooden Boat Show. Canoes, skiffs, yachts and other watery craft from all over Europe will be shown outside the National Maritime Museum in London. alongside sailmakers and knot-tyers demonstrating their nautical skills for sailors and curious land-lubbers. The highlight of the show is an al fresco reenacument of the Battle of Trafalgar using a giant stage to represent HMS Victory, Lord Nelson's flagship. The admiral's bloodstained uniform can be seen on display inside the National Maritime

International Wooden Boat Show, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SEIO. Admission £3.50, concessions £2. accompanied children free. Battle of Trafalgar and concert Sunday 31 May 2-4pm. Visitor information 0881-858 4422 or 0181-312 6565

Sally Kindberg

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Confession is good for the goal when late into the Lions' Den



ROWBOTTOM

ON THE SIN OF MISSING THE KICK-OFF

IT SEEMS we can't get away reflection, I don't think we'll go haps I would simply have left from confessions these days. Switch on your TV or your radio, and what do you hear? l love my boyfriend - but I've been sleeping with his brother for the last six months... I got married in secret the day before my wedding, so the guests. were watching a re-run... I'm living with my pregnant girl-friend, hut I can't keep my hands off her Mnm..."

Where will it all end? And what purpose does it serve? Forgive me. Father, for I have sinned. Say three Hail Marys, and talk to a television

Anyway, call it exhibitionism if you like, but I don't see why I should be left out - so here

into that... hut t am willing to talk about the time I was late for Millwall.

it. Emharrassingly late. Even

In retrospect, I can see that overconfidence. On the day I was due to cover an evening match at the New Den, I visited the offices of this newspaper which, as the crow flies, are little more than a couple of

l left an hour for the journey by car. To borrow a phrase from Aqua's tune of the moment, "If I Could Turn Back Time", I would have left two is my confession. Actually, on hours. Three perhaps. Or pergateway to the South.

my car and walked.

لمكذا من الاصل

My problem was that I had cross the River Tharnes-not "Late" possibly doesn't as the crow flew - and all cover it. Very late. That covers routes were clogged with other motorists selfishly intent upon doing the same thing...

Blackwall Tunnel? Ha the whole thing stemmed from bloody ha! Rotherhithe Tunnel? Closed, as it happened, for long-term repairs. So it was Tower Bridge, then. And less than half an hour until kick-off.

Locked into a traffic jam that extended all the way down The Highway to the aforementioned crossing point, I conceived of a cunning plan. Sliding off left through relatively car-free side streets, I arrived at Wapping tube station,

After parking with a flour- Bridge, I tried to derive some ish outside some mews flats so easy! ~ I sprinted into the entrance and inquired of the man behind the glass whether New Cross Gate was the nearest station to Millwall FC. It was. And when, I asked, was

the next train? "Next year." Wapping tube station was closed due to work on the Jubilee Line.

There is a point in the John Cleese film, Clockwise, when the desperately late headmaster cries out in his forment: "It's not the despair. It's the hope!" All very clever, I'm sure - but wrong. At that moment, with kick-off less than 10 minutes away, hope had left town. And despair felt very bad indeed.

As I inched across Tower

comfort from telling myself that there were still 85 minutes left to play. Then still 80 minutes. Then still 75. It wasn't comforting though. Passing New Cross Gate station, I was assailed by a sudden doubt over the exact location of the New Den, being as it was new, and

not, by definition, the old Den.

I stopped at a petrol station.

They didn't know where the

football club was; but they did

give me directions to a night-

roars of acclamation or outrage

I eventually parked outside some flats and ran towards the floodlights, drawing pathetic comfort from the fact that my ears were not being filled with

with my pass.

By the time I had talked my way in, only two minutes - give or take injury-time - remained of the first half. Frankly, I could not face the press-box grinning faces, "good of you to turn up" comments delivered in mocking tones, that sort of thing. I sneaked into the press lounge where two ladies were sening out the half-time sandwiches and tea, but most importantly the TV monitor in the corner of the room - oh thank you, Jesus - carried the following information in its

Birmingham City 0. I had been lucky. As the swiftest of the reporters settled from the assembled supporters. to the serious business of toad-

top left corner: Millwall 0,

sation confirmed a lamentable lack of incident up to that point. Bad for them; good for

It finished 1-0 to the home side, thanks to a goal - not necessary hut thanks anyway, Je-

sus - in the final minute. My curious timing was, inevitably, commented upon, and although I toyed with the idea of saying I had been engaged in a Day in the Life fea-ture which didn't necessarily require me to be in my seat, I decided honesty was the best

policy.
"So where did you park?" somenne asked. I told them. "Ooh," they said, with a swift intake of breath. "You didn't leave it there, did you?..."

Merry makes fast change by running slowly

A British sprinter is rediscovering her form via the unorthodox training methods of Linford Christie. Mike Rowbottom met her

MEING very good, very young can create its own problems. Since setting world age bests for the 600 metres and 100m as a she was surprised by how slow-14-year-old, Katharine Merry ly she was expected to run for has seen her career frequently fall prey to injury. "If I had listened to some people I would sential part of the Christie aphave packed it up long ago," said the 23-year-old who, in her unofficial role as Britain's golden sprint prospect, attracted a succession of colour supplement writers to ber family home in Dunchurch, near Rughy. Now the thing is to come out

those people eat their words." Merry seems surer of her capahilities right now than she has been for years – and for that she has to thank Linford Christie.

Last October, having experienced four successive seasons in which hugely promising beginnings were followed by hugely disappointing endings, she moved to Cardiff and became how I did it. installed as the only female member of Christie's training

After slogging through winter schedules set by the former Olympic 100m champion, and spending two months warm- everything weather training in Australia with Christie and the other memhers of her group -hoyfriend Andrew Walcott, Jamie Baulch, Paul Gray and Darren Campbell - she feels stronger than ever before. The niggling back problems, and the knee injuries which have required two operations in the last couple of years, are - she hopes. she believes - things of the past.

By way of demonstration, Merry opened her season recently with her first 400m race. on a windswept Welsh track in Barry, which she won in 51.7sec. As shows of strength go, it was impressive, confirming both to Merry and her coach that her preparations had been well

10/10

some of the training methods Christie employs, Specifically, much of the time. But this, as proach, something which had been handed down by his own long-time coach, Ron Roddan.

heart out in December and that matters." Merry said. Throughout the winter Lin-

even pace, concentrating on starting again." tempo, with the odd speed ses-

'I was running so quickly then. I don't know But when you are young, you can do

previously and it suits me to a tee considering my history of in-

So steady was the pace, indeed, that Merry was able to run comfortably alongside her male training partners. "It has benefiled me a lot," she said. "I feel a lot stronger now. The last few seasons have been very frustrating because I have begun each one by setting a personal best and ended each one with injuries. When it happened again last year, that was the final straw. I just felt I needed to make a fresh start."

Merry talks like a veteran Merry, who was previously has been around for a long time. soon. coached by Keith Antoine, ad- But that, as she points out, is be-

mits she was taking aback by cause she became so well known so young. Her early achievements have proved a hard act to follow. Apart from anything else it took her nearly five years to better the time she soon discovered, was an es- of 7.35sec she had set for the

"I was running so quickly then," she said. "I don't know how I did it. But when you are "It's no good running your young you can do everything..."

She does not accept, how-January when it's the summer ever, that her precocity has worked against her. "Everything happens for a reason," she and do the times that will make ford got all of us running at an said. "But now I feel as if I am

The 200m, in which she set season, will be the main focus of her attention. She plans to earn selection as Britain's representative in the European Cup at the end of next month. Thereafter comes the European Championships and the Commonwealth Games.

"It's exciting," she said. "Things are going so well at the moment that I can't wait for my

Merry and her training colleagues are being supported this season by someone whom she describes as being "from a different planet" - medical therapist John Sales. "I've seen so many medical people over the years that when we were recommended to see this person I thought 'Oh yes? Well, let's have a look...' But he's been brilliant. He works to the Chinese pattern of points on the body which correspond to other parts, he doesn't use acupuncture, he applies pressure. For instance, there is a point on my ear which corresponds to my knees... It sounds odd. hut he's got me through from October to now and I've only had to miss two training sessions."

Success is beckoning once again to an athlete who has sufand, indeed, it seems as if she fered from having too much, too



After a remarkable entrance into athletics Katharine Merry has suffered from a series of injuries

Reid keeps Chinese at bay

Hockey

By Bill Colwill in Utrecht

ENGLAND will this evening play Scotland for 9/10th place in the World Cup here, following their wins in yesterday's cross-over games.

Two goals from Jane Sixsmith and one from Purdy Miller were enough to ensure a 3-0 victory over China in a game in which England took their chances and the Chinese, who created far more opportunities, came up against Carolyn Reid in the English goal.

England, with Karen Brown moving forward at the faintest of excuses, created a number of chances in the opening minutes including two penalty corners, but it was a careless clearance from China's Seon Hwa Lee in the 14th minute that paved the way for the opening goal. Her clearance was intercepted by Jane Smith, who put Sixsmith away for the kill.

After a series of outstanding saves by Reid, England increased their lead five minutes before the interval at their third penalty corner, Miller deflecting the ball into the net after a clever switch. Sixsmith, with her second goal in the the 22nd minute, put the game beyond doubt.

Scotland conceded an early goal against India before winning 5-3 in a game in which they had the edge with the front running of Sue MacDonald and Rhona Simpson proving too much.

Both scored, along with the captain Pauline Robertson, who dominated the midfield. Scotland's first goal came from Susan Gilmour, with Alison Grant completing the scoring.

Canada will be without their veteran defender Alan Brahmst when they play England this morning. He has been suspended for unsportsman-like behaviour.

SNGLANUT C I requi (my norm), in calendow (Canterbury), I Moudi (Leicester); L Wright (Canterbury), J Moudi (Leicester); L Wright (Olton), K Bowden (capt, Leicester), J Sim-non (Loughborough Students); J Sbesmith

Results, Digest, page 23

An insultingly lowbrow formula in a breakneck parade of meaningless soundbites



MAUME

SPORT

ON TV

ITV DOCUMENTARIES are gracefully misleading, the er. Psychologists, possibly. Peodrunk with most Premiership atrocious by and large, the on-higgest (and most disturbing) ple like Geller (are there any players at one time or another). atrocious by and large, the onscreen equivalent of some trashy old free sheet shoved through your letterbox. The Truth About Footballers certainly maintained standards with its insultingly lowbrow formula of finding out what a bunch of minor celebrities think about the game, in a breakneck parade of mostly meaningless soundbites.

One of the first topics up for discussion was the burning issue of whether players should have you some idea of the agenda. And when one of the celebs acprogramme, that "football is the new rock 'n' roll", it was nearly switch-off time there and then. With its hint at behind-the-

revelation being that Uri Geller is on England's side for the World Cup. "I held it in my hands, I energised it for England," he said of the trophy. "I even twisted it, just a little bit to the right."

The utensil-mangling crackpot even took credit for Scotland's penalty miss against England in Euro 96. in a helicopter overhead as Gary McAllister shaped up to take the kick, sex before a match, which gives he concentrated on the ball, he says, just enough to make it wobble on the spot. The final tually said, seconds into the proof that he's a few bent scenes exposes, the title was dis-

people like Geller?), never. As one of the "personalities", the lottery host Patrick Kielty, observed, the Israeli's attachment to Reading was not quite enough to prevent them finishing bottom of the First Di-

vision earlier this mouth. The fundamental weakness with The Truth ... was the notion that what some B-list bozo has to say about football - about anything - is interesting. So, for example, Eamonn Holmes expatiated on players' wages, the pitch and Matthew Lorenspoons short of a cutlery draw- zo on life after retirement. er was when he asserted that in Hardly a think tank at work 10 years' time, psychologists and there (Chris Evans, irritatingly, "people like me" will be sitting was easily the best informed, but geous," she sighed.

There were some good lines, like Mark Raddiffe's belief that

when they stop playing, "all

footballers should go fat and bald and open a puh on the Wirral." And there were one or two fab cameos, particularly Lauren and Leah, who put on their gladdest rags and head off to Charlie Chan's night-club every weekend in pursuit of big rame. "My whore outfit," said Lauren as she held up a pink rubber creation designed to bring the entire West Ham back Angus Deayton on violence on four to its knees begging for mercy. Leah had been offered mon-

ey by a red-top to seduce Rio

Ferdinand but has eyes only for

Frankie Lampard - "he's gor-

There was a modicum of

heavy breathing, too, in My main plot, Des and Co being the allocation for England games - Summer With Des (BBC1), Greek chorus as the progress of and all of them, despite the touts' Arthur Smith's film created in the image of his own An Evening With Gary Lineker, a slight, charming tale about a love affair between Martin (Neil Monissey) and the magical Rosie, played by

the magical Rachel Weisz.

There was a feeling at the beginning of "not another play about football with a famous name in the title", but the engaging Morrissey captured the nuances of being a football fan during a region tournament - the way most other aspects of human existence cease to exist. "Unfortunately, someone had the stupid idea of putting gaps between games," he said.

The story was intercut with scenes from the BBC's coverage that commented wittily on the the Football Association's entire a nice bloke.

the love affair mirrored England's through the tournament. Martin and Rosie watched the Dutch game with mounting excitement, orgasming simultaneously as the fourth goal went in. And you just knew that, as they sat at Wembley during the shoot-out against Germany and Southgate's effort went over

the bar, he was going to turn and

It would take Rosie's magical powers to get Martin into France 98, if Dispatches: Supertouts (Channel 4) has it right. Callum Macrae, wearing his best Roger Cook suit,

find her gone.

best assurances, unauthorised and therefore useless. The most enjoyable scene came at the end, when Macrae

bearded the boys in the lobby of the Paris Hilton as they had a drink-up to celebrate a lucrative week. As he entered with his camera crew, they all scarpered sharpish, the lobby emptying like a Wild West saloon when Jack Palance walks in. One man stayed, though, the head of the operation, David Spanton. Predictably, he had come across as a piece of low life, but he dealt with Macrae perfectly politely, and even shook his hand at the doorstepped his way through end, asking when the proone English touting operation gramme was going out. I hate to that handled more tickets than say it, but he seemed like quite

Wye, 7-1 Secret Service, 16-1 Mytton's Choice 1/97 Ballet Royal 8 9 7 A Dowling (7) 12-1 (H Manners) 9 ran

HYPERION

2.00 Gramy Helen 2.35 Bay Of Delight 3.05

Three For A Pound 3.35 Finisterre 4.10 Tanker-

CLeft-hand course, undulating and sherp. Not suitable for the long-

elleft-hand course, undulating and sharp. Not suitable for the long-striding horse.

Course is NW of town on A6436. Darlington station 14m - bus service to course. ADMISSION: Club Str.; Tattersalls 57; Course 5250 (under 16s free wito all enclosures) CAR PARIX: Reserved area 62. remainder Free.

ell-EADING TRAINERS; J Berry 23-162 (142%), Mrs. M Reveley 584 (178%), 1 Syre 53-05 (124%), M W Easterby 12-106 (113%) ell-EADING JOCKEYS; L Chambock 14-145 (97%), A Custame 9-104 (87%), J F Egen 7-33 (212%), T Williams 7-90 (78%), eFAVOURITES; 163-443 (413%), BUINKERED FIRST TIME: Granny Helen (200).

2.00 SKIPTON-ON-SWALE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) \$2,500 added 2YO 6f

9 2 HASES (12) J Berry 86 - P Feasey (3) 8
9 10FPER (14) T Essierby 89 . L Chernock 4
9 9 NEPPER (14) T Essierby 89 . L Chernock 4
9 EET (1NG: 5-2 Claranna, 3-1 Habbb, 9-2 Greeny Helen, 8-1 Just Orange, 7-1 Caranylase, 10-1 Nipper, 18-1 Castaway Principa, 25-1 others

2.35 ALDEROUGH RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 6f

BETTING: 3-1 First Frame, 9-1 Respecties, 7-1 Dentara Riyer, Lectric, Bay Of Deligit, 6-1 Barren Lands, 10-1 Somosiera, Torienta, 12-1 others

added 77

ROTHMANS ROYALS SERIES SKY HANDICAP (CLASS D) 28,000

Catterick

sley 4.40 No Cliches

STALLS: Inside DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places)

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Newmarket 2-10 Laurentide 4.15 Ashraakat 2.40 Agreeable 3.10 The Limping Cat 3.40 MASHA IL (nap) 4.45 On The Ridge 5.20 Ben Gunn (nb) GOTING: Good to Firm. STALLS: 1m 6t - tar side. remainder - centre. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None. Offight-hand ourse with 'th 25 straight OCcurse is SW of town on A1304. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmarket stations. ADMISSION: Cub. £14 (16 to 25-year-clote £3; Grandstand & Paddock £10 (16 to 25-year-clote £3); Family Enclosure £3. CAR PARIK: Members £1; remainder free. OLEADING TRAINERS: 14 Cach 45-184 (245%), J Gooden 22-170 (125%), O Loder 20-93 (215%) M Stoute 20-206 (37%), Seasof bin Sumoor 16-67 (265%), L Compan 18-149 (121%), OLEADING JOCKEYS: L Dectori 59-355 (186%), Fallon 28-179 (156%), W Hills 27-282 (035%), T Quiant 21-271 (77%), S Samders 8-83 (85%), O Harrison 8-107 (75%). OFAVOURITES: 25-641 (33.5%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Stue Kite (340), Family Men (visored) (520). 2.10 MILTON PARK STUD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 26,000 added 3YO 1m of Penaity Value £4,152 K Felon 2 -3 cectamed -BETTING: 1-3 Laurentide, 5-2 Locayan Spring, 20-1 Roy 1987: Three Cheers 3 9 9 A Gartin 16-1 (J Goaden) drawn (2) 7 mm 2.40 EBF SNAILWELL STUD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 26,000 added 2YO 6f Penaity Value £4,698 AGREEABLE (Makinum Al Makinum) D Loder 99. . AGREEARIE (Haldoum A) Markourry D core 9 V. CAPPOLO S L Parineship R Hannon 9 0 EMILYS LUCK CHARM (USA) (Maldoum A) Markourr) M Stouts 9 9 ... 63 GRECAM TALE (149 (Ambrooks Turbul) A Juris 8 8 ... HOT PASSION (Park A Farmer) M Bell 9 0 ... 00 MALCHIK (12) (I G Mazalariy P Howing 9 0 ... __W J O'Come C Lowther 1 Mullen (3) 7 MANZONE (David Berlen) G Lewis 90......... SPORTING LAD (USA) (M Arbib) P Cole 90. BETTING: 5-2 Agreeable, 7-2 Emily's Lock Chann, 5-1 Sporting Lad, 7-1 Capriolo, Historia, 5-1 Stecture Tales, 16-1 Hot Pession, 16-1 others 997: Cape Verdi 2 8 9 J Reid 8-19 Ew (P Chappie-Hyam) drawn (12) 12 ran 3.10 SUNLEY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added C4 206-00 MUGELLO (21) (D) (Mrs Am Jerve) A Jarvis 8 10 0

3.40 CORAL SPRINT HANDICAP (CLASS B) £35,000 CA added 3YO of Penalty Value £22,450 2 12-2 RING DANCER (17) (10) She Thick Michael Palaching 3 Serioles 11 114

Alone Blace, Walner charant, Nation electron, Polar Black 93 — Serioles 11 114

Alone Blace, Walner charant, Nation electron, Royal Blace clabolo, Nation cap

Denote, Light Blace, Denote Blace charant, Light Blace cap

A US-321 NUCLEAR DEBATE (18)A (15) (3) (4) R Chearly Nat J Remarks 91 — J Fortions 4 95

Light Blace, Dark Blace charant, Edit Blace cap. Dark Blace spots

Minte, Royal Blace charant, Carbonne 91 — J Fortions 4 95

Light Blace, Nat (21) (3) (4) As J Remarks 91 — J Fortions 4 95

MS-5 HARMONEC WAY (21) (3) (4) As J Remarks 13 Territors 99 — K Pellon 6 104

White, Royal Blace charant, Light Cheer pots

T 31-402 MASHA-L (14) (3) (1) Francisco A Mesticure) J Gooden 8 11 — L Datoni 6 107

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T 31-402 MASHA-L (14) (10) (10 Mesticure) J T Mesticure 9 — R Mesticure 9 — R Mesticure 9 — R

PORINI GUIDE

A comfortable four-length win from Deep Space in maider company at Thirsk (6f, good) should have done the confidence of the quirty NUCLEAR DEBATE the world of good. With the stiffer course in his terrout, he looks weighted to reverse earlier Lingdied running with the progressive Hill Maglic on Sib better terms for a hatf-length (6f, good to firm). Hight Shot, who was a further length sway in fifth there, is 8b better in with the winner but might not get home here. Conversely, Hazmonic Way, enother half length back in shot, might again find six furiongs on the sharp side. Keyo is undeniably well handicapped after failing by a head to hold Ho Leng at York (7f, good) but the shorter trip must be a worry. Mashe-If, who left his Kempton flop behind when running Double Brandy to a head at Newbury (8f, good to firm) should be in the hunt despite a 5b weights rise, although his stable remains in the doldrums. Magic Rainbow, well in on all-wester form, had a poor passage when 71/s, lengths lourth to Blundel Lene (15b worse off hore) at Chester (8f, good to firm) and could be a dark horse.

Selection: NUCLEAR DEBATE

4.15 BANKES ASHTON INVESTMENT CHARLOTTE STAKES (Listed) (CLASS A) £17,000 added filles & mares 6f Penelty Value £11,563

The booking of Franke Detron is a significant pointer to CUITE HAPPY, who followed a promising Winders after from a bed draw with a lest-strict wire over flure in 17th Framily in a Followstone hendings 64 good to firm) on Wednesday, Jon Scargiffs fifty is improving test, and the Winders aftert points to her being fainty weighted, even with a 6th penalty. Lord Lieutenant disappointed when 18th of 20 to HM Magic in a hot of handcap at Lingson fleet (good to firm) firms weeks ago but with Kleene fisition aboard it worth considering on his pravious third, beaten 2½ lengths to Hole, at Newmented (64, soft). A market move for The Limplag Cat, might be significant. She looked exceptionally aboadly when econing at Nottingham last season and made her mark with a 5½ length that to 8p Prince in Letted company at York 64 good). Anseltman has been raised 35 for his length second to Testica of Haydook 63, good to soft) and is 6th higher than his previous best winning mark, with escencial debutent Library Society is 15th higher than when winning mark, with escencial debutent Library Society is 15th higher than when winning mark, with escencial debutent Library Society is 15th higher than when winning mark, while season and made her winning stable, size floor.

340 CORAL SPRINT HANDICAP (CLASS B) 525 floor.

FORM GUIDE.

The 6f trip could be the key, with the race likely to be set up for ASFURAH, who tooks more a sprinting type than most of her nvais. From test year's winning stable, she had the subsequent trian 1,000 Guineas winner Terascon 3° lengths behind when besten a head by Princely Heir in the Phoenix Stakes at Leopardstown (8t, good to yielding). The bin Scroor files have been carrying all before them, and tack of a recent run will be no problem. Free-nuring Astronaut, who did not test home when 12 lengths ninth to Cape Verd in the 1,000 Guineas (tin, good) is taxoured by weight conditions but there is a doubt over her ability at the shorter trip The same applies to fidtheyeas, who seemed to need every yard of 77 when failing by a head to catch Nanoushics at Lingtled (good to firm). Desert Lady ran her best race when 3°/slengths ascord to Lochungel at Bath (8º 191yds) on her reeppearance, form which has since taken a boost. Her ability to stay the edits respondence, form which has since laken a boost. Her ability to stay the edita to on this tougher courte must be taken on trust. Selection: ASPURAH

4.45 PERSIMMON HOMES MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £4,581

2 SPRICHET (ET) (on a benefit of the steepes, Pinn cap, many Pink, Maycon chemistry, Pink steepes, Pinn cap, many Pink (DSS (28)) (8 Birent) H Candy 9 9.

Charty, Black seek, Primone and White queriesed cap WEALTHY STAR (Ahmed A8) B Heritury 9 9.

Light Green, Black apots 9 FALEY THREE (12) (May Cells Miler) S C Williams 8 8.

Engrand Gesen, Velovi hoop and amelias, hooped cap MeSLEADING LATY (J. M. Greetingmil M South 9 9.

Netter, Black hoop and seriels, Raid cap 8.

MOMENTARILY (USA) (216) (C Gercin-Wester) E During 8 8. .F Lanch 3 Might Ealthras bellow, Effect most a with search to burnou o with the control of TRENDY PROJAN (Shelith Altred Al Meldour Yellow, Sheck ap

— 12 general —

12 Part - 12 Part -

Loss, 12-1 El Ghazzes, 14-1 others 1997: The Prince 8 8 9 A Clark 4-7 for (G Wisegs) drawn (3) 8 ran PORTAL GUIDE POFFILE GUIDE:

SPINDRIFT got the idd-glove treatment when beaten four lengths by Fe-Eq, the subsequent trief 2,000 Guiness second, over this course and distance and is aure to improve. This race has produced several winners, tr-form Henry Cedi audided the sight than and will have a good line for On The Ridge, who dearly ran below expectations when 2½ langths third to less-fancied stableants Eston Square at Newbury (tin, good to firm). Time Loss nested the race when 6½ lengths sixth to Gatecrasher on his debut at Kempton (tin, good to soft) and a sure to improve. Trendy bridhan, a daughter Indian Ridge, looks the top contender for John Gooden, who had four entries.

Selection: SPINDRIFT 5.20 COUNTRYSIDE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 1m Penetry Value £4,659

BETTING: 9-2 Wild Sky, 6-1 Ben Guen, 13-2 Fernity Men, Topton, 7-1 Amber Fort, Eurobox Boy,

Stratford	3.55 SPILLERS HORSE FEEDS LADIES HUNTER C4 CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 added 3m £2,579
LDMITDION.	1 -4PF11 BLUAGALE (D) (D) (F A Boress) P Nictoria 7 11 7
HYPERION 400 University	2 -C2461 BOXICHG MATCH (17) (C) (D) (D C Poberte) R Philips 11 11 8
2.25 Fujiyama Crest 4.30 Jigtime	PORRING CORROL WHEN CONSIDER PURCH SHEWER, WITH HOUSES, PURCH 1280
2.55 Time Won't Wait 5.05 Glemot	3 4-53P2 AIRTRAK (13) (D) (Mrs Richard Pildington) Mrs R Pildington 9 11 9Miles A Steelman (7) Yallow, Red seams and eler on cap
3.25 Easy Listening 5.35 Hazaaf	4 222132 BALISTERIOS (FR) (21) (D) (Ma B Thomson) Mrs B Thomson 8 ft 9 "Mrs B Thomson (7)
3.55 Boxing Match	Black, Yellow agen, Black sleeven, White arrives and cap
GOING: Chases - Good (Good to Firm in places); Hurdles - Good to Firm (Good in places). OLeft-hand course with 200yd nun-in.	Flack, tellow selfs, filent secures, White enthies and cap 5 P3-SEF DICK'S CABIN (\$1) (0) (Mrs Sanih Welen) Me S Welen 11 11 9 Miles A Goschum (7) Rec, Royal Sub steness, Black surbles, Black and White check cap Part of the Cabin (\$1)
Course is SW of Stratford-on-Aven on A438, Stratford Station 1m, ADMISSION; Club	6 -3P332 DRUMSTICK (6) (C) (P W E Henri Miss H Irving 12 11 0
\$13; Tatteraals CB; Course S4. CAH PARK: Inside course S2, remainder free. ©LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 28-102 (27.5%), P Hobbs 5-67 (22.4%), T Forster 10-44	7 363F-3 BIDIAN CLUEST (20) (TO Proof Throse 9 ti 9
(227%), O Balding 10-64 (55%), P Nicholls 9-28 (285%), O Sherwood 8-31 (258%),	8 034F52 MR BEAN (20) (Paul Morgan) P Morgan 8 11 C
eLEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 28-127 (22%), R Johnson 15-82 (18.3%), N Williamson 15-97 (15.5%), M A Fitzgerald 13-57 (22.8%), R Farrant 8-34 (23.5%).	Light Green, Dark Blue hiple cleanond, halved sleeves, Dark Blue and Dark Green quartered cop
FAVOURITES: 180-493 (365%).	9 UURSEP OTTER RIVER (5) (O J Carter) O Carter 9 11 9Miles M Coombe (7) White Red land White hooped stepses, Black and White hooped cap
BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Larry's Lord (505); Heart Full Of Soul (535), Capacif (visored) (535).	10 R-1112 CIZZNE JONES (22) (0) (Veith R Pearce) K R Pearce 7 Ti 9
	11 STEEL TIDEFRANCE (7) (D) (Mrs M Morre) Mrs M Morris 10 11 0 Mirs M Morris (7) Royal Blue, Red shaves, Royal Blue charvors, White cap
2.25 IAN HOLDHOYD RETIREMENT NOVICE HUMDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m & 110yds Penalty Value £3,372	
	12 Lt21-31 TREVVEETHAN (28) (D) (Sies Smyly) O Smyly 9 11 8
1 1-1101 LADY REBECCA (29) (Kringrsley Optimists) Mes V Williams 8 11 12	13 -SP3FP WAKE UP LUV (14) (D) (R Williams) R Williams 19 11 9
3 43330 ELEVANA CREST 623 (CTA (Borne Balant) N Handaran 8 ft 5 M A Filtronald 9	14 060P34 WARRER FORPLEASURE (24) (E.A.Lee) E.Lee 12 11 8 Miss S Sherrett (7)
4 (1)PO KRISCUFFE (42) (9) IP A kirs) C Sterwood S 11 S D Gallingher 5 2-1PO SOLAZI (FR) (25) (D) (Me Serah Fitules) B Frost 5 th 9 D Burrows (5)	Enerald Green, Yellow cross belts and star on cap 15 125(3) SAYIN NOW? (21) (U) (Dennis Waggod) N Anderson 10 10 12
	5 123(3) SAYIN MOWT (21) (D) (Dernis Weggott) K Anderson 10 10 12
7 PP-PP CHEQUERS BOY (25) (Alar Coffeld N Iwaton-Daves 7 to 3	16 16-253 GO MARY (45) (Miss C Philips) Miss C Philips 12 10 9
8 PPPPSI HEADING NORTH (26) (C J Carlet) O Carlet 7 to 13	Desk Blue, White diamond and spots on cap
10 FP5550 SANIOS POINT (17) (Mrs C R Haylon) C Popham 8 10 13	17 U2023 MUSS MONTGOMERY (7) (D) (Mrs S M Farr) Mrs S Farr 7 109
11 PPEPP SMITTEN NOT RITTEN (41) Mrs. I M Raison I Mullins 7 10 13	18 322221 POLAR ANA (13) (D) (MS P.A Mcintyre) Mrs G Gladders 9 10 8
2 -POS64 MADGE MCSPLASH (14) (6 Mrs J M Davenport) J Jefferson 8 TJ 8	Harge, Dank Brue simps, ricopad steames
13 0400P2 THE BIZZO (19) (J.F. Parwert) J. Parwert 7 10 8	19 AF34P POPPEA (21) (D) (Existin Contractors) R Barks 8 10 9
BETTING: 4-5 Lady Rebucca, 4-1 Fullyama Crest, 8-1 Dacyborg, 12-1 He de Librata, 14-1 Solazzi,	20F50UOU SUDDEN SALLY (7) (J W Highes) J Highes 7 109
20-1 Kriscenie, Madge McSplash, The Blzzo, 25-1 others	Black, White charriers, hooped sleeves, White cap
1997: Bullens Bay 8 10 13 Mr J L Llewellyn 4-1 (8 Llewellyn) 11 ran	- 20 declared -
2.55 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C)	BETTING: 9-2 Bluegale, 6-1 Sayin Novel, 7-1 Ozzie Jones, 6-1 Boxing Metch, 16-1 Go Mary, 12-1 Ballstorus, Drummick, Mr Been, Politr Ana, 14-1 others
2.33 £7,000 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £4,822	1997: Thenk U Jim 9 10 7 Miss T Jackson (7) 18-1 (Mrs G Sunter) 8 rpn
1 TASSE VERBALES (ISA) (IS) (D) (D A. khoson) M Pine 8 P. D	FORM GUIDE
2 3-2615 THE WON'T WAIT (24) ICEN ICEN Barks Parametrical S Philips 5 12 0 M A Fitzperaid	BLUAGALE, a tixee-time point-to-point winner in treland last year, probably has more
9 152P13 GIPSY GEOF (28) (G A Hubbard) G Mubbard 7 10 13 I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	potential than he rivals and looked a fairly safe conveyance when scoring comfortably at Fontwell (2m 2f meiden chase, good to firm) and Exeter (2m 31/ri novice hunter chase).
4 123-43 MR CONDUCTOR 130 IP til De Witter 8 After 7 31 Th	He is untried at this distance under Rules but his trainer believes it will show him in an
5 32-F52 BRAZIL OR BUST (15) (Ars C A Waters) P Webber 7 10 12 G Bradley 9 16PO43 MARRUS (37) (D) (Alex J Andrews) J Gilford 8 10 8. L Aspell (3) 7 424363 NASHVILLE STAR (USA) (44) (D) (F) Mathewy R Mathew 7 10 5. C Lieuwellyn V	even better light. Boxing Match pulled off a 33-1 shock at Huntingdon (3m. firm), beat-
7 424383 NASHVILLE STAR (USA) (44) (D) (R Mathew) R Mathew 7 10 5	ing Emisso-H by 20 lengths, but the form is open to question, and this former selling chas-
- / ORCHING -	er must have firm ground. Ozzie Jones, a former handicap hurdler, has notiched a hat-trick
BETTING: 52 Time Wort Wait, 4-1 Glosy Goot, 9-2 Brazil Or Blast, 6-1 Martins, 7-1 Nashville Star,	of point-to-point wins this season and was a creditable 9-length second to the the use- tul Grimley Gale on his hunter-chase debut here (firm) three weeks ago. Go Mary, for-
6-1 Yubrakee, Mr Conductor 1997. Indian Jockey 5 11 9 A P McCoy 8-11 fav (M Pipe) 4 ran	merty a decent staying hurder, has not lived up to expectations over tences but was not
CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF	disgraced when 24 lengths third to Flat Top in novice handicap company at Cheltenham
3.25 INTRUM JUSTITIA HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C)	(2m 5t soft) and might improve for the longer trip. Selection: BLUAGALE
	4.30 HORSE & HOUND CUP FINAL CHAMPION C4
1 131PP THE FRENCH FURZE (SE) (D) (Jim Erric) M Pipe 4 11 10 C Meach B 2 5039/2 EASY LISTER MRS (USA) (SB) (D) (Derch Kacy First) N Hande B 11 4 M A Fingerald V	HUNTER CHASE (CLASS B) £20,000 added 3m 4f
2 503342 EASY LISTENING (USA) (58) (D) (Darck Kacy Pint) N Hawle 8 11 4	Penalty Value £13,810
4 - 1002 FIELMARKTA (22) (D) (G A Huttakita G Hutbard 5 T) 1	1 2-232 DOUBLE SELK (31) A C Wilers) A C Wilers N 129 Mr J Tezard
5 P-202 RIVER WYE (14) (C) (D) (BF) (5 Holdsworth) O Yardley 9 TO 7	Yellow, red armiets, quantared cap
8 402034 SECRET SERVICE (5) (0) (BP) (Hole in The Well Gang) C R Barwell 8 103 T J Murphy	2 214-P GLER OAK (24) (P.H. Tremas) D. Duggan O. 120
7 453K21 BARTHOLOMEW FAIR (22) (CD) (D L Bowlest) C Dwyer 7 to 1 R Farmet - 7 declared -	3 31121 HOWAYMAN (31) (D Waggetti K Anderson 9 12 0Mr K Anderson
BETTING: 3-1 The French Purze, 4-1 Easy Listening, 9-2 Belenarita, Bartholomew Fair, 5-1 River	Abjet blue, and write districts, white steems, myet blue spots, quantized cap
Wye, 7-1 Secret Service, 16-1 Mytton's Cholos 1397 Bollet Brazil 8 9 7 A Dewlero (7) 12-1 Of Manneral 9 rain	4 F21F(3 LOCHNAGRAIN (32) (BF) (Millon in Mind Partnership (7)) T Forster 10 12 0 Mr S Durack Enterald green and red disbolo, emerald green sloeves, while diamonds, while cop, red diamond

2014.P GLER OAK (24) (P H Thomas) in C whates in cap was a man and a man and

		Gain part, 5-1 current y Man 4 8 9 D Harribon 11-4 fev (J Fernihows) drawn (3) 11 ron
5	1-413	NODFORM WONDER (14) (BF) (D.A. Malem) R Bevis 11 12 0
9	25-433	REAL PROGRESS (26) (CD) (A Stermet) J McCorroctile 10 12 9Mr J Trice-Rolph
7	1-1112	TEETON MILL (21) (32) (The Whrate Line) Mass V Williams 9 12 0
8	295P11	TOM'S GENNII STAR (10) (O J Carter) O Carter 10 12 0
8	-31112	VARYKINOV (29) (BF) (Merk & Filmell) M G Filmell 9 12 9
10		GREALEY GALE (13) (C) (R M Profipe) M Jackson 9 ti 8
		JIGTME (10) (U) LI W Hughes) J Hughes 9 T 9
B	TING;	11-4 Teston Mill, 3-1 Julius, 4-1 Grindry Gale, 7-1 Hoveyman, 8-1 Double SHk, 10-1

1997: Ceito Addey 9 12 9 Mr D S Jones 194 for (Mes V Williams) IT ron

JIGTIMEE'S sole Betback in seven hunter-chase starts in two seasons came in the Forhunters' (3m 2/M, good) at Cheltenham in March, where she was poised to play a big
role when falling four out. She has since socred at Kelso, Ayr (beat Howayman 10 lengths
over 3m 3/M good to firm) and Heaham. She stays extremely well and appears impervious to the state of the ground. Teaton Mill, who has joined last year's wimming trainer,
Venetia Williams, with a view to handcap chaoling, looks the clanger, though he hung the
when beaten 12 lengths by Double Thriller at Cheltenham (3m 2/M, good to soft) lest month,
following wins at Wetherby, Leicester and Newbury. Grimley Gale has completed a fourtimer in points and hunter chases since her 28% length fourth to Earthmover in the Fouhunter of And should that an hand, bloodlier with the Lucilly winner (Molform Wonder,

5 05 JENKINSONS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) 27,000

1	<u> </u>	added 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £5,183
	· 13611	PHILIPS WOODY (24) (CD) (K G Knod) N Henderson 10 12 0 M A Fitzgeral
	-4PTP8	CELTIC ABBEY (15) (C) (D) (C J Powell) Miss V Williams 10 ft 10
	322004	GLEMOT (43) (C) (D) (Deres Yardy) P R Webber 10 11 9 A McCarth
	010F05	KIBRIET (58) (Terry Warner) P Hobbs 11 11 8
	33P-PP	IMPERIAL VINTAGE (28) (D) (David M Williams) Miss V Williams 8 1 4
	67583	EASTHORPE (10) (Martin Broughton) Miss H Knight 10 11 9 Cultot
	3130P	LARRY'S LORD (10) (CD) (J Blackwell, T Curry, D Nichols) P Nichols 9 10 11.T J Murphy
	31-0F4	POLIDEM PRIDE (10) (D) (D) F Lockyer, C Parry . G Belding) G Belding 10 10 11 B Callion
		GLAMANGLITZ (24) (D) (Mrs. Jule Martin) P Delton 9 10 10
)	P31F03	STANISORE (21) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 9 10 2 D Gallegte
•		• 19 declared •
	Could.	of Change alley 4.5 Chilling Woods 5.1 Change 2.1 Calle Sphery (Chront 18.1 Con

5.35 FM102 THE BEAR NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS

3.35	E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,612
F11053	GRAY PASTEL (9) (D) (Lord Donoughmore) M Pipe 4 17 10
Pante	SPECIALIZE (8) (D) (BF) (Mrs Diane Smith) K Burke 9 ft 8
444P4	MASTER MELLPIELD (10) (P Stade) R Hodges 9 ft 5
60F0	DIE FLEDERIMAUS (70) (Lady Vesley) Miss H Knight 4 11 3
550	SIBOR STAR (21) (Tarry Price) D Burchell 4 11 1
00-PI05	EXPRESS AGAIN (8) (A Johnson Houghton) R Johnson Houghton 9 to 13 D Gettingher
030-01	HAZAAF (USA) (17) (D) (J D Eggleton) M Kettle 8 10 10 M A Fitzgerald
553350	CHINAMON CLUB (13) (Cub Ten Syndicate) N Gasalon 8 10 10
P55046	CAPSOFF (84) (G A Hubbard) G Hubbard 5 10 10
0/5340	B MY LOVELY (36) (Michael J Brown) O O'Nell 9 10 8
0220-0	BATH KNEGHT (F2) (Heart Of The South Racing) G.L. Moore 5 10 5
-0005P	MESTER CHIPS (9) (O R Peopolalit) J King 7 10 5
P0-00	CASHAPLENTY (14) (J R Salter) J Jetterson 9 to 3
POUP	LUDO (26) (Strutes Limited) C Westion 4 102 M Richards
000	HEART FULL OF SOUL (26) (Ms Jan Procter) P Shakeapoere 4 10 0
0-0F00	ANOTHER RUMPUS (22) (The Trops) C Mortock 8 109
-0P004	EAU BENITE (5) (Group 1 Racing (1994) Ltd) H Collegetige 7 10 9 R Kewtenage

Radders (7)	4 ULIFUC REPRECE (30) HORY THERE I FROM I I I Comment and a service and
	5 33P-PP IMPERIAL VINTAGE (28) (D) (David M Williams) Mass V Williams 8 11
James (7)	6 61583 EASTHORPE (10) (Mentin Broughton) Miss H Knight 10 11 9
	7 -3130P LARRY'S LORD (10) (CD) (LI Blackwell, T Curry, D Nichols) P Nichols
edburne (7)	8 31-DF4 POLDEN PRIDE (10) (D) (D F Lockyer, C Parry . G Belding) G Belding
,,,	9 214P11 GLAMANGLITZ (24) (D) (Mrs. Jule Maran) P Delton 9 10 10
	10 PSIFOS STANMORE (21) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 9 10 2
Mary, 12-1	■ 19 declared →
may, 12-1	BETTING: 3-1 Glamangilitz, 4-1 Philip's Woody, 5-1 Glamot, 7-1 Celtic Abbey
	horpe, Stammore, 14-1 others
	1997: Stately Home & 12 0 N Williamson 6-1 (P Bowen) 8 ran
	and the second s
has more	THE THEORY OF DEAD MONDE IN A IDIO AD LINE

Minimum weight: True handlesp weight: Eau BETTING: 5-2 Specializa, 9-2 Gray Peatel, Capsoll, 12-1 Die Fledermeus, 14-1 otheri Capsoff, 12-1 Die Fledermeus, 14-1 others 1997 Culin Caper 5 10 3 M A Fitzgerald 8-1 (T Watson) 15 ron

-			
	7-3602 050-00	CARAMBO (16) (D) J L Eyes 598	Lingfield
į	640-05	RYMER'S RASCAL (12) (CD) E Astor 532 J F Egun 11	
,	312010	MIKES DOUBLE (5) (D) Mrs N Michaely 49 : P NoCabe (3) 8	L

- 11 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Three For A Pound, 9-2 Casambo, 8-1 Milke's Double, Lunch Party, 8-1 Javeturi, Broctone Gold, 10-1 Rymer's Rescal, 12-1 others 3.35 YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES SKY

F) £3,000 added 7f MARYLEBONE (21) Nas J Ramadan 486. - D Peers !

4.10 SINDERBY MEDIAN AUCTION SIXY

£3,750 added 3YO 77 BETTING: 4-7 Tuniorsky, 9-4 Olic's Chuckle, 16-1 Anthony Mon Am 20-1 Globe Paider, 13-1 Si Senonta

4.40 PICKHILL HANDICAP (CLASS SKY 00-26 NO CLICHES (IS) D Norols 5 9 TO ____ Merc Greates 4

0:504 HASTA LA WSTA (12) (CD) Y W Exserty 8:88 7 Lucas 8:8 00:50 WILMAMARTYRA GIFL (8) J Pares 9:90 ______ T Wellium 2: 00:52 MAKATI (19) Mss J A Camadra 4.7 © _____ L Cleamock 8 - 8 decigred -- a coucard - Minimum weight: 751 10th Tine handling weight: Moral 7th 6th SETTING: 3-1 Haste La Vista. 4-1 Astro Lase, Sedier's Blace, 9-2 No Citches, 8-1 Uncle Doug, Klimmartyra Gel, 10-1 Mekati, 25-1 Durano

GORNG: Good (Good to Soft in places).

STALLS: Straight course - stands side; the 21-inside; the 31-out-side. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 51 to 71.

SLEIT-INAM, sharp undulating course.

GCourse is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London Victoria) stighters course. ADMISSION: Cub DTS, Tamily Enclosure 52. CAR PARK: Cub DTS, Tamilating free.

QLEADING TRANSPERS GL. Moore 84-638 (32%), Ministan 52-222.

(DES), R. Hannon 48-535 (32%), Lond Hardings on 44-227 (199%),

QLEADING JOCKEYS: J. Weiner 83-353 (211-%), 8. Wightnorth
51-350 (145%), J. Quien 35-650 (SA%), W. Ryen 33-67 (168%),

QLEADING FRST TIME: San Absorted (245), Ministra (35), Carlton (SCS),

BLINGERD FRST TIME: San Absorted (245), Ministra (35), Carlton (SCS), 2.15 RACING CHANNEL NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (E) £3,750 added 2YO 5f -7 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Dottor Spin, 3-1 Smittenby, 9-2 Saafend Rock, 6-1 Re-telletor, 7-1 Lucy Mariella, 20-1 The Hake, Missing Ted 2.45 SCREEN STARS EXTRA PREMIUM MAIDEN STAKES (D) 25,000 1m 2f = 9 declared =
BETTING: 4-5 See Wave, 7-4 See Afrond, 12-1 Keid, 20-1 Gorgeona Guery,
25-1 Rivertment, Ducieum, Operatio, 33-1 Winero'a Albert 3.15 TOTE HANDICAP (CLASS C) SKY - 11 Sectared - comodate You Set Ob. Fight BETTING: 5-1 Feel Free. Optimistic. Terrahven, 6-1 Pelegon, 8-1 Section World, 9-1 Yanabi, 10-1 Setron, Miresta, Respond, 12-1 others 5-1 Robo Magic, 10-1 Bras

HYPERION

3.50 JEROME KITSON'S THIRD SKY £10,000 3YO 1m 3f 106yds 2.15 Doctor Spin 2.45 Sea Wava 3.15 Bet-tron 3.50 Success And Glory 4.25 Tamarisk 4.55 Coronet 5.25 Belias Gate Boy BETTING: 5-4 Success And Glory, 6-4 Opers King, 7-2 Wends, 33-1 Alazan. 4.25 NICHOLSON GRAHAM & SKY (Listed) (A) £7,750 6f

4.55 CAFFREY'S IRISH ALE H'CAP SKY

5.25 OCS GROUP LACIES HANOICAP

10 00000 PATRITA PARK (239) W G M Turns 4 9 3. Miss C Strutton (7) 9
70000 PATRITA PARK (239) W G M Turns 4 9 3. Miss C Strutton (7) 7
70000 ACCOMMODATE YOU (23) J M Bradley 9 9 3. Chairo Strutton (7) 6
70 0336/0 FIGHTER SOUADRON (20) (0) R Pagacot 8 9 3 14 0x000- VESERO (JECH) P Purity 11 93 Altson Purity (5) 14

Punters' guide

NEWMARKET 3.10: Literary Society goes well fresh but this can go to another seasonal debutante, THE LIMPING CAT, who was a fine third in York's Roses Stakes despite a slow start.

3.40: Nuclear Debate has been thereabouts in numerous decent contests but Frankie Dettori, can win this on MASHA IL who was beaten just a head by Double Brandy at Newbury last time and looks primed for this. 4.15: ASHRAAKAT was only minth

in the 1,000 Guineas, beaten a dozen lengths by Cape Verdi. The drop from a mile to six furlongs is a worthy experiment as she has always displayed plenty of pace. 4.45: Supporters of ON THE

RIDGE had their fingers burnt on his debut when this 6-4 favourite

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

was only third to a 33-1 stable-mate. Compensation awaits.

STRATFORD 3.55: BOXING MATCH, highly impressive when trotting up by 20 lengths from Emsee-H in a 3m honter chase at Huntingdon recently, is suited by today's trip and underfoot conditions and will be hard to beat. Bluagale may be the chief danger.

4.30: JIGTIME, who completed a hat-trick when coming home 14 lengths clear of Tartan Tradewinds in a 3m 1f hunter chase at Kelso last time, makes slightly more appeal than the useful Tecton Mill.

Simon Holt (right) of the Channel 4 Racing team gives a runner-byrunner analysis of today's Coral Sprint Handicap at Newmarket

Hill Magic: Beat Nuclear Debate II at Newbury. May be sharper for (winner since) and 18 others at Lingfield last time, baving previously run the Wokingham ante-post favourite Sheltering Sky to a neck over this course and distance. Up in the handicap but may not have stopped improving. Ring Dancer: Made pleasing reap-

pearance when second of seven to Zelah in a Lingfield conditions race over seven furlongs. The drop back in trip is not a major worry. Night Shot: Consistent, speedy type who may be vulnerable over this stiff six furlongs. Nuclear Debate: Forfeited ground when switched to stands side before going under by half a length to Hill Magic at Lingfield. Con-

firmed promise with a four-length beating of Deep Space at Thirsk. Highly progressive and from a Harmonic Way: Put in solid fate work to finish sixth of 20 behind Hill Magic and Nuclear Debate at Lingfield. This stiffer course will help his cause but a seventh furlong

might prove his optimum mdell Lone: Benefited from a plum draw when making all round Chester's turns and boasts plenty of early pace. Punished by the capper with a 121b rise since, Masha-II: Failed to fast home over seven furiones at Doneaster and beaten a head by Double Brandy over Newbury's six. Travels well and looks an interesting contender. Kayo: Dual winner on Southwell all-weather proved just as capable on turf when caught close home by Ho Leng at York (71) and has been raised only 11b since. May find this distance a bare minimum.

Mantles Pride: Beaten by the draw at Thirsk-first time out and struggled after slow start when third to Bhindell Lane at Chester. Overture: Returned to finish sixth behind Double Brandy and Masha-

the excursion. Torogat: Badly drawn when sixth to Blundell Lane at Chester, he had previously blistered home by seven lengths at Catterick and disposed of Night Shot by a neck at Thirsk (5f) last time. From a stable which does well with sprinters. Easter Ogil: Successful in maiden company at Beverley, he cut little ice when favourite at Chester and looked in need of this extra furlong. Blue Kite: Has run respectably in races won by Blundell Lane at Chester and Hill Magic at Lingfield. Magic Rainbow: Never able to muster enough speed when fourth to Blundell Lane at Chester and this stiffer course may suit better. Pips Song: Woo on Wolverhampton's Fibresand in April but was never going the gallop behind Blundell Lane at Chester. Demolition Jo: Industrious two-

year-old last season scoring twice and placed eight times from from 17 starts. Started the campaign on a high mark but the handicapper is gradually relaxing his grip. Sarah Stokes: Filled the frame in all four starts as a juvenile. Made all when favourite at Pontefract last month and should improve further. Fante De Mieno: Beat just one home at Kempton fast Saturday. Ivory's Joy: Winner in selling murs ery company three times last year. she was running on nicely over Windsor's five furlongs behind Iris May and Chieftain last time.

nclusion: Lynda Ramsden has a fine record with sprint handicappers and NUCLEAR DEBATE, who gained a deserved first win at Thirsk last time, is fast on the upgrade. He was unlucky when beaten by Hill Magic at Lingfield previously. Torrent goes from strength to strength, while Masha-Il still promises much.

Ten-year-tale	on	the	C	ral	Spr	int	Ha	ndi	cap	
	1988	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
Fate of the favourites:	6_	11	4	3	4	45	_1_	1	6.	_1_
Winner's place in bettle	g: 2	3	9	3	3	2	1	. 1	D	1
Starting-prices:	11-2	5-1	9-1	13-2	15-2	7.1	9-2	5-1	8-1	11.10
Winning weights:	BØ	812	97	83	84	730	95	83	9.7	B.13
Winner's draw:	14	7	11	_ 1K3	7	3	. 9	14	4	10
Profit or loss to £1 stak	e: Fav	ourite	13- pt	160 5	есоп	d Fev	ourte	s£0	50	
Percentage of winners	placed	1st,	2nd c	or Ord	in Jus	t race	: 80%			
Shortest-priced winners	: Blue	Gobi	in (199	77) 11-Y	10					
Longest-priced wkmers	Cesse	Law	(1990)	9-1	_			_		
Top trainers: No trainer i	188 WO	n this	race	more	than c	nce i	the p	ast W) vear	<u> </u>

ľ	3.20	CLUB (G	ARAB E	MIRAT	ES PRI	X OU JO	CKEY	ввс
L	_	7 crop (c	roup 1	310	III 41 22	202,520	. 19	
1	22-21	PROLIX (24) (N	Abdullant E	Hes (GB)	92			Holland 10 1
2	433-62	DAYMAHTI (21	JHH Aga K	han A De	Player-Duper	92		G Mores 3 1
5	141-5	THREE OF HEA	RTS (28) (5	hek Mohar	nmed Al Ma	šktoum) A Fiz	boe 92	O Positor 6 1
4	0-2023	VEZING (FH) (1	7) (Eque 5	Bader) P De	mocastal 9	2		_TGTet 2
5	1 124	ROLL ABI (FR)	(28) (C) (Ec	i (Sruž) eirus	Butmont 9	2		Thullez 7
8	112-4	MUDEER (21)	Godobini	Sacco ten :	Suroor (GB)	92		Dettori 11 1
7	511	SAYARSHAN (77) (28) (C)	(I L Lagae	deret P Bar	v82		D Boaul 9
8	221	DREAM WELL	(FR) (17) (C)) (Nearther	Family P (Bary 92	C A	CHURNON 12 1
8	3-13	MAKAPILIKA (L	54) (250 KG	L Onespor	TO J Current	Man 9 2	P	at Edday & :
10	1-12	SESTINO (28)	G A Cichen	of Mone C #	load 92			Dolaton 4
Ħ	14-11	CROCO ROUG	E (21) (Val)	C Section P B	ary 9 2			S Gullet 5
12	1-1	MOUNTJOY (F	RI (CI) (CI)	E Sodert	ourca .I De C	houbensky (2	Senchez 1
13	1311-1	SARATOGA SP	FINGS (18	(M Tabor).	J Magner) A	P O'Brian (n 92 M .	Kinam 13 1
₽Ę	TING:	11-4 Serstoga S	prince, 3-1	Croco Ro	UGG. 6-1 S	ilvarahan, t	-1 Davens	eti G.1 Sauti
16-	1 Mude	er, 12-1 Dreecy !	MeH, 14-1 7	total Of He	MUTS. 16-1.	Makaruka, J	rolly 50	1 others
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Literary Society	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	! !	Saratoga Springs	94	11-4	114	11-4
Avendmen	92	9.2	5-1	41	9-2	1	Croco Rooge	10-3	114	71-4	31
Code Happy	92	41	9.2	5-1	5-1	!]	Sayaratag	B4	£-1		7.
Happy Days Age	in 6-1	13-2	8-1	6-1	13-2	1	Deyment	8-1	9-1	7-1	8-1
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Magada	B-1	13-2	7-1	11-2	B-1	1 1	Departs Well	141	12-1	12-1	12-1
Swymford Dress		9-1	B-1	10-1	10-1	l	Madeer	10-1	20-1	14-1	8-1
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Country Country		20-1	16-1	201	16-1		Uniamia	16-1	14-1	20-1	14-1
Sylva Paradise	<u> </u>	20-1	25-1	201	85-1	1 1	Prolix	16-1	16-1	29-1	15-1
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Harmonic Way	- 51 61	B1	54	9-1		F	nee, Optimistic,	hoash	Ban 6	Poles	206, 8
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Marseur Debete	11-2	8-1	7-1	7-1	8-1	
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Harmonic Way	B-1	8-1	54	9-1	B-1	Free, Optimistic, Tarashean, 6-1 Palagos, 8-
Maghe-li	9-1	7-1	9-1	9-1	04	Evening World, 9-1 Yersebi, 10-1 Bettern, Mine ta, Respond, 12-1 Mentius, 16-1 Kints Bren
Totaget	10-1	94	61	10-1	9-1	The state of the s
Kajo	10-1	91	11-1	10-1	91	1016
Sarah Stokes	2:1	14-7	12-1	71-1	21	INDEPENDENT
HM Magic	14-1	12-1	11-1	14-1	14-1	
Hight Shot	16-1	14-1	#-1	12-1	124	RACING SERVICES
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Magic Reinbow	184	E -1	20-1	14-1	18-1	IIIUOYI ZOI TI
Manufac Prints	161	18-1	8-1	16-1	20-1	LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS
hary's Jay	8-1	22:1	20-1	23-1	25-1	
Sharded Larry	20-1	20-1	81	20-1	16·1	NEWMARKET 971 981 UNGRED 972 982
Stue Kite	20-1	20-1	20-1	ZD-1	25-1	CATTERICK 973 963 STRATFORD 974 964
Demolition Jo	29-1	20-1	20-1	1B-1	20-1	KEMPTON (E) 975 985
Overture	20-1	20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1	MARKET BASEN (E) 976 986
Pips Song	33-1	33-1	23-1	33-1	334	
Fands De Miles	40-1	50-1	33-1	40-1	25-1	ALL COURSES RESULTS
Eachway & Ch	anter f	e odds			3 4	0891 2 <u>61 970 </u>
						Calls cout 50p per minute. 125, pt., Scratton 31 1C24 47

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press of Cape Verdi's participation in the Derby last Wednesday afternoon Simon Crisford conducted affairs from a presidential desk in an ennr- spondent for the Racing Post, mnus office. It was the sort of which gives him an insight into space people in London are liable to call a flat.

This setting is quite appropriate, most woold say, for the Gndnlphin. racing manager of the blue chip Godnlphin operation. When you see Simon Crisford at the manager most liked by his forraces, in his shades and blazer, mer colleagues, but then he the thought always occurs that there must be a yacht around. Stroud (Sheikh Mohammed). You imagine him travelling the Angus Gold (Sheikh Hamdan) globe first class at Sheikh Mohammed's expense, entering (Khalid Abdullah) are the nthcars with pennants on the bonnet and pausing jost long formation and the last named enough to collect an immense has found keeping his lips zipped

It appears a tremendous job, even if this description is not one which Crisford himself recognises. He doesn't quite see his posting as a sinecure. "That's good morning complete nonsense," he says. to some of for parties, "The job requires a lot of bard these guys you work and complete dedication, sometimes need and there's nothing romantic a bonch of the sort of about the whole thing. There's heavies and a nothing fancy about it and if live flex to illie- lifestyle that people think otherwise, it's a it a reaction. complete misrepresentation.

"I think people had that image of people who worked for comment but might expect the Sheikhs 10 or 15 years ago. Bot nowadays there's no time for parties, there's no time for the sort of lifestyle that some people might expect. That does his trade. He knows the little not exist." It sounds a bit like being a poor old journalist.

And the racing manager knows what that is like. He's been in the media swamp with the rest of us.

Crisford is 36 years old and comes from Solihull, though his accent was born somewhere else. From the age of nine he was bonkers about racing and by 12 he was climbing into the Goodwood eyrie to get tips on commentating from Peter O'Sullevan.

He's done that got bored in the City thing and subsequently worked for John Dunlop and Sir Mark Prescott, After that he was Newmarket corre- the substitute his superior.

AS be informed his jockey. Frankie Dettori, and the British Richard Edmondson talks to the man

with the perfect position, racing manager to Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin team

join me out there."

and Dubai cach year.

Godolphin bas prospered

from the outset, the choice

troops collecting 25 Group One

races, including eight European

Classics, six of them domestic

ones, Simon Crisford has looked

relaxed and sunny and ready for

cocktails back on the poop deck

after each of them, but inside

other thoughts have been born-

the dribbling beasts whn approach him after another dribbling beast has wnn fnr

There is little doubt that Crisford is the Arah's racing hasn't got much to beat. Anthony and Grant Pritchard-Gordon er notable ministers of non-inso tiresome that

he is to retire at the end of the 'Nowadays

If you say there's no time no time for Crisford has some people had his "no

don't quote me ... on that" moments himself, but has matored into the most eloquent figure in tricks that make joornalists appreciate him. He returns telephone calls and, occasionally, throws an onsolicited fatty bone of information to the pack.

Crisford says he's very lucky and that in every throw in life "the dice has turned up six for me". That may be so, but on many occasions be has also loaded them in his favour. He is hardworking, effective and shrewd.

Stroud surely noted this when he first inducted Crisford into the Maktoum operation as his No 2. What he probably did not anticipate was that Sheikh Mohammed would soon make

every time Crisford mentions the team thing, then you could ive Sheikh Mohammed a run for his money. He likes to credit the other main men who run Five years ago, the Sheikh thought it would be a splendid Godolphin, Tom Albertrani, the American assistant trainer, idea to winter some choice and Saced Bin Suroor, the two-year-olds in Dobai and nominated trainer. Bin Suroor then return them for an assault is probably the most successful on the finest races in Europe. trainer of modern times, even though many believe his role is He knew he had a man in oversee the joh. "When Godolphin not much more than carrying a was born it all happened very tray bearing the soda siphon. "They're very wrong to think that," Crisford says, "very quickly," Crisford says. "One day Sheikh Mohammed told me wrong, very inaccurate and very tn come to Dobai and I went with a suitcase for the weekend. Three weeks later I was phon-Sheikh Mohammed's influ-

ing my wife, telling her to take ence, however, is not in any the children out of school and doubt. The owner and Frankic Dettori became knotted to-Karen Crisford first met her gether in such rapture after a husband dormomentous victory that the ing Gnodtemptation is to throw a bucket of water over them. It seems, wood week in an HMV motboogh, that the relationship sie shap in with his trusted lieotenant is not Brighton. He quite the same. "It's employer and employee, it's as simple as went in lookthat," Crisford says. "With the ing for a single and came out type of investment and backing he has put into Godolphin the with a couple, results have to be there. As a and the famiwhich team we knuckle down and work very hard and nothing less spreads to a than complete dedication is acand daughter, now ceptable.

"We're hard on ourselves because coming second is no good. There is nothing good about coming second in anything in life, And racing is ruthlessly competitive.

"We do discuss things and argue with the Sheikhs and we thrash things out. Of course Sheikh Mohammed and Sheikh Maktoum have the final say, but they are keen to listen to our opinings and they want a good, lively discussion."

ing away. "When you get those Next Saturday afternoon it locky breaks like I have you've might be time for a uncommon, good, lively party. If Cape Vergot to take them," he says. "And it's all very well and good di does win the Derby, you will see Simon Crisford passing on taking them, but then you've got his thoughts to the press smilto keep your position because there are plenty of other people ingly while looking vaguely nauout there just as good as me tical. He might then do snapping at my heels. It's very something seemingly out of character. "I'd love to have easy to fall down that slippery some jellied eels." he says.
"You can't get them in Dobai." pole, and a lot of people who do



Crisford: 'There are plenty of people out there just as good as me snapping at my heels'

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Croco Rouge can be the

and the desperate, an astonishing total of 22 horse races will find their way into the nation's living rooms over the course of this afternoon and evening (assuming, of course, that they are connected to Murdochvision). It is the main event on tomorrow's agenda in France, however, which will attract the attention of purists, whether they be students of form or ar-Prix du Jockey Club in the magnificent setting of Chantilly.

some British punters to see the French Derby as little more than an interesting appetiser for the serious business at Epsom, but in the last two years at least, such patriotism has proved sadly misplaced. Both Helissio, in 1996, and Peintre Celebre, last year's winner, went on to win the Prix de l'Arr de Triomphe and mark themselves down as exceptional colts. It is hard to say the same of either Shaamit or Benny The Dip, the winners at Epsom in those years.

This year, what is more, there may be a direct line of form to link the French and English Derby winners at an unusually early stage of the season. Saratoga Springs, winner of the Dante Stakes at York this month, is the most formidable member of a three-strong foreign challenge for tomorrow's Classic, and at this stage is also an intended runner in the original Derby next Saturday. If he does indeed make it to Epsom. he is the probable mount of Pat Eddery, although Mick Kinane. his rider tomorrow, made it clear yesterday that be will not decide on his own preference among Aidan O'Brien's extensive team until next week.

Saratoga Springs put op a resolute performance to win the Dante, but it hardly carried the stamp of irresistible brilliance, and he may struggle to cope with the best of the French

co Rouge (3.20), who won the Group One Prix Lupin at Longchamp. A repeat of that form should be good enough.

racing in Britain today is not, somewhat predictably, matched by its quality, and the Coral Sprint Handicap at Newmarket is a race which will suck in many thousands of ponters and then spit most of them out again.

One consolation is that several of the more obvious choic-Lingfield three weekends ago, when Hill Magic came with a strong finish to beat 19 appo-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Nuclear Debate (Newmarket 3.40) NB: Teeton Mill (Stratford 4.30)

be little to choose between choice, hot he has solid excuses for his last two disappointing ment when winning on the all-weather. At 20-1 with Ladbrokes this morning, he is at

at decent odds is MUGELLO (nap 3.10), who carries topalso improving, while at Strat-ford, Venetia Williams can win Mill (4.30) is her runner in the the 1997-98 National Hunt season. The jumpers will not get much of a holiday, however. The new campaign starts at Hereford on Mnnday.

Yesterday's results, page 23

HYPERION

that never get up again."

Musselburgh

6.40 Red Symphony 7.10 Golden Thunderbolt 7.40 Soaked 8.10 Northern Motto 8.40 Double Power 9.10 Feel A Line

spends six

months in

both England

GOING: Good.

STALLS: Straight course – far side: round course – inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 51; high from 71 to 1m 41.

Bight-hand oxel course with tight turns.

Course is 5m E of Edinburgh on At. Bus and from Edinburgh station 5m. ADMISSION: Cub 112; bittersails 98 (DAPs and unemployed 53). Accompanied under-65 free. CAR PARK: Pree.

LEADING THAINERS: J Benry 38-160 (238%), M Johnston 15-105 (M376), Mrs. M Roveley 13-80 (163%), T Benron 9-42 (214%)

LEADING THAINERS: J Benry 38-160 (238%), A Culhane 13-80 (144%), J F Egan 10-58 (163%), P Fessey 8-84 (85%).

FAVOURITES: 161-434 (417%).

BLINGERED FIRST 1788: Phentom Three-online (940), Mejal (710, visored), Teacher (900, visored), Dyce (940), Finanta Bay (930, visored).

LONG DISTANCE THAVELLERS: Datimore Bankes 8 Just Sunday (640) sent 407 miles

6.40 JAMBOS SELLING STAKES SKY

Kempton

HYPERION

6.20 Full Spate 6.50 Philister 7.20 Prevalence

7.50 Brave Edge 8.20 Nasaayam 8.50 Tellion

(33%), L Dettori 17-108 (15.7%), R Hughes 15-74 (20.3%).

FAVOURITES: 138-445 (31%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Mystic Ridge (850).

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places). STALLS: Straight course - fer side; rest - Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 54 and 65.

.JF Egan 4 8 doctored —
 8

7.10 SHERATON CLAIMING SKY 1 STAKES (F) £3,000 1m 4f
1 3004 GOLDEN THUNDERBOLT (15) N Trivier 58 13 D McKooum 4
2 04-613 BREYDON (16) (D) Plotsonth 58 11 O Pears 2
3 62-55 DURGAINS FIRST (12) (D 8F) Mrs M Fevelby 88 11 A Cultume 1
4 25000- MAJAL (1949) (D) J Warnergit 8 8 11 L Newton 8 V
5 14328 LATVAN (297) (CO) R ARO 11 8 9 S Michory 5
8 040-0 LITTLE MISS ROCKER (12) (D) A Dicken 4 88 . W Supple 3
7 63-423 THISOMESFORALICE (L274) (D) J Colde 10 87 . J F Egen 7
7 doctared BETTING: 5-2 Durgarms First, 7-2 Golden Thunderbolt, 9-2 Little Mess Rocker, 11-2 Latvian, 7-1 Thisomestoralice, 8-1 Mejal, 12-1 Breydon

7	7 40	SHERATON GRAND CUP
Ĺ	7.40	SHERATON GRAND CUP SKY
1	60-130	GARNOCK VALLEY (2) (CD) J Berry 8 10 0 D McKeown 7 B
2	400220	YOUNG ENR (43) (D) P Evens 3 8 12 1 F Egan 2
3	24-1	KOLBY (12) (CD) A Baley 3 0 12 A Mackay 1 B
4		PALLIUM (2) (CD) D Notan 108 12 P Feesey (3) 8 B
5		SOAKED (15) (CD) (BP) D Chapman 5 89 A Cultimor 4

7.20 AMBITION HANDICAP (CLASS SKY

- 9 declared -Minimum: 7sr 10th, True wesolds: Sunday Mail Too 7st 8th, Ready Teddy 7st 5th BETTHIC: 5-2 Souked, 4-1 Genroot Valley, 13-2 Kolby, Young Ben, 7-1 Young Ibm, Pelikam, 8-1 Sunday Mail Too, 20-1 others 8.10 SHERATON GRAND GRILL SKY

62-120 SHAKIYR (FR) (33) (U) R Hainshead 7 8 to A McCorthy (3) 7 4 62-20 SHAKITE (FR) (S3) (IQ) R Holindrea 7 8 13 A McCarthy (3) 7
5-5452 DALLY BOY (12) (CD) T Easterby 68 9 ... L Chemosk 8
6 05400 TAP ON TOOTSEE (574) T Vall 8 8 8 ... L Newton 12
7 40445/ TEACHER (J17) R Atan 8 8 7 B Maloney 8 V
8 20046 NOTATION (12) D Crayuran 4 8 1 ... P Fessey (3) 10
9 0-045 THANKS KEITH (15) J J Choll 3 7 0 ... W Supple 3
10 34052 LIJDERE (12) (C) P Mortem 3 7 10 ... Mormoph (7) 1
10 63560/ DUSGAN (849) (C) P Earls 11 7 10 ... J McAuley (7) 0
12 4050 HUTCHIES LADY (13) R McMark 8 7 10 ... K Stad (5) 11
1-12 declared -

— 12 deciared — Minemum weight: 7st 10th Ture fronticop weights: Thanks Keith 7sl 9th Lud-ere 7st 8th Duggen 7st 5th, Hutchies Ludy 7st 1th BETTING: 3-1 Daily Boy, 11-2 Northern Motto, Ludere, 8-1 Charity Cra-sader, 8-1 Shaidyr, 18-1 Midyan Blue, Notation, 14-1 others - 12 declared -

8.40 ROYAL BANK RATING RELATED MAID-EN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 5f

- 14 declared -SETTING: 5-1 Mkapan Rocks, 8-1 Ballard Lady, 7-1 Feel A Line, Coucoro-ba, Dr Woodstock, 8-1 Bill-Em, 18-1 Finants Buy, 12-1 others

Market Rasen

6.30 Oriel Lad 7.00 Albermarie 7.30 Cheeka 8.00 Non Vintage 8.30 Hurricane Linda 9.00 Bullifinch

GOING: Good to Firm

Right-hand, sherp, undutating crout. Run-in of one furlong.

Course is E of fown on AS3. Station im. ADMISSION: Cub
S13: Tattersalls 59 (CAP's Jubiles Cub half price); Silver Ring Es
(Jubiles Cub half price); CAR PARIK: pricing areas 52, rest free.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs. M. Reveley 23-100 (23%), M. Pipe
IS-66 (22.7%), K. Morgen 15-119 (12.5%), Missa H. Knight 15-38 (34.2%),

LEADING JOCKEYS: A S Smith 20-142 (41.1%), N. Williamson
17-78 (22.4%), R. Garritty 15-111 (13.5%), R. Johnson 14-68 (20.6%),

FAVOURITES: 244-619 (34.6%),

BLINICRED FIRST TIME: Black ice (700, visored), Non Vintage
(800), Orion House (830), Son Of Aragon (900).

(800). Orton House (830). Son Of Aragon (900). 6.30 CLARK CONSTRUCTION SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (G) £2,000 2m 1f 110 yds

7.00 ROGER JOHNSTONE & PARTNERS NOVICE CHASE (D) £5,500 2m 4f

7.30 LINCS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT H'CAP CHASE (E) £4,500 2m If 110yds

8.00 LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO HANDICAP HURDLE (D) £4,000 2m 3f 110yds 11326 JAMAICAN FLIGHT (F20) (CD) Mrs S Lamyman 5 11 11 P2003 MON VINTAGE (7) (C) M Chapman 7 7 2 W Worthington B 34FPPP KEEP ME IN MIND (25) N Fi Martin 9 10 0... Soptial Minchall (2) 35323 POLY AMANSHAA (8) M Earlis 0 10 0... R Studioline (5) 2004 Studioline (5)

- 0 declared -

— U DeCapre .

Minamam: 10xt. True handicap weghts: Poly Amarshas 9st 72tb. Silverdale Lad 9st 10tb. Brackenthweite, Gorby's Niyth 9st 8tb. Sigma Wineless 9st 2tb. BETTING: 5-2 Jamaican Flight, 11-4 Poly Amarshas, 11-2 Silverdale Lad. 7-1 Nov Vistage, 8-1 Brackenthweite, Sigma Wireless, 12-1 Gorby's Myth, 14-1 Marsh 15-1 Mind.

8.30 GEOSTAR HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) 22,500 added 2m 6f 110yds 8-SU1 FATHER RECTOR (26) (D) C Brooks 9 12 10.

9.00 ST BARNABAS HOSPICE MAIDEN HURDLE (E) 23,000 2m 1f 110yds

- 17 declared -SETTING: 5-1 Keep Me Straight, Warrkawhile, 6-1 Mile Equal, 7-1 Mo's Boy, 8-1 Builfinch, Shardante, 10-1 Marigilano, 12-1 others

Chantilly ace colts. Chief among them is Cro-

By Greg Wood

THE THE WAY

A LOCAL CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

MUCH to the delight of the sad The quantity of televised

chitecture, as 13 colts contest the es contested the same race at There is a tendency among nents, including Nuclear De-

bate, Night Shut and Harmonic Way. The message of that form, however, is that there will again them, and it may pay instead to look further down the list. Magic Rainbow (3.40) is a tentative runs on turf and had previously appeared to show improve-

least a sporting price. Another who could go well weight in the five-furlong handicap but should be suited by the return to the minimom trip. Desert Lady (next hest 4.15) is the Horse & Hound Cup for the second year running. Teeton main event on the final day of

6.20 FUSION NIGHTS AT JUBILEE CLUB MAIDEN STAKES (D) 25,000 3YO 7F 4 THATS LIFE (7) TABLE 9 0 PRIZE 14 PRIZE 15 WALDRI J GOSZER 8 0 W Ryen 4 ABUNDANCE J Smyth-Caboume 8 9 R Pertum 9 5 8 PREDORA (15) M Barehard 8 8 J Quien 9 5 6 PREDORA CUS NUMA (272) Li Ryen 8 8 G Carrier 10 QUEENS DAGGER J Gosdan 8 8 C L Delzori 5 T declared 6 PREDORA 7-2 Publ Spate, 9-2 Pirat Consul, 13-2 Pass The Rest, Wajori, 8-1 Thats Life, Fredora, 15-1 Rhini Part, Queena Dagger, 12-1 Others

6.50 FLORENCE NAGLE GIRL AP-PRENTICES HANDICAP (E) £4,500 1m 1f (md course) 20, Fercy Design Sig 13th.
BETTING: 5-1 Phillippe, 11-2 Twin Time, 8-1 Bouter, Alberton, 7-1 With A Will, 8-1 Present Situation, 10-1 Vola Via, Soden, 12-1 Others

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5t and 6t.

Right-hand course. Separate straight course for 5t and 6t races.

Course is on A306 at Surbury. Station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Premier enclosure £14, Juniors (17 to 21-year-olds) £3; Padock £10; Silver Ring £5. CAR PARIC Members £2; rest tree.

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hamnon 31-24t (25%), M Secula 15-86 (18.2%), J Dunlop 15-15 (13%), P Cole 13-85 (13.7%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: J Raid 29-53 (19%), T Cultar 29-218 (1994).

LEADING JOCKEYS: J Raid 29-53 (19%), T Cultar 29-218 (1994). 7.50 RING & BRYMER ACHILLES SKY STAKES (Listed) (A) £16,500 5f 8.20 LORNE STEWART MAIDEN SKY STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 3YO filles 1m 1f (md course)

8.50 BLACKBIRD HANDICAP (CLASS D) 000304 SECRET BALLOT (7) (2) K Maint 48 10 ... W J O'Connor 8
424 SEP THE NET (47) F Cole 49 8 ... T Guinn 4
430-63 TELLION (25) J Jenkins 49 1 ... C Lowther 7
1-203 TALLIDLAH BELLE (8) (C BT) N Libroden 56 13 ... Wester 6
3-1000 STATAJACK (5) (C B) D Essorth 10 8 2 ... W B Swinborn 2 B
0-0000 INYSTIC RIDGE (13) B Curley 4 8 5 ... J Quinn 1 B
613-21 YET AGAIN (140) (7) Miss G Kolleway 0 8 5 ... R Presign 8
00006 SHINING DAINCER (27) (C) S Don 6 8 3 ... G Center 3

-- O declared -SELTING: 3-1 Yalkulah Betis, 7-2 Secret Ballot, 9-2 Yet Agein, 11-2 Tel-Ron, 7-1 Statejeck, 10-1 Silp The Net, Shining Dencer, 12-1 Myetic Ridge





The point of it all is a rural kind of thing

By ian Davies

FOXES don't just kill themselves, you know. All that bepinked charging across the countryside has to be paid for and, from January to June, hunts up and down. Britain hold point-to-points - steeple-chase meetings - as fundraisers.

Britain hold point-to-points - steeplechase meetings - as fundraisers.

The origin of steeplechasing is, as the title implies, a race across country between two church steeples, jumping all obstacles along the way.

obstacles along the way.

Going to a point-to-point is quite similar to going to a normal race meeting except it is much less expensive and often a lot more fun.

often a lot more fun.

Although point-to-points can charge you, say, £10 to park your car in the field the meeting is taking place in and another £5 for each occupant – there is little they can do to prevent pedestrians from walking in for nothing.

The Melton Hunt Club meeting at

The Melton Hunt Club meeting at Garthorpe in Leicestershire is the point-to-point world's Cheltenham Festival and last Saturday the cream of the hunter chasers thrashed it out for various championship races.

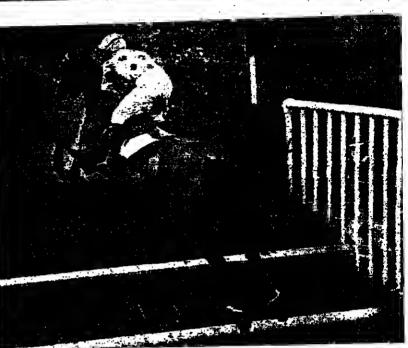
Bookmakers at point-to-points are notorious for making scandalously over-round books — that's racing jargon for offering really mean odds about everything — but even so the form is as reliable at a point-to-point as at any horse race meeting (i.e. not very).

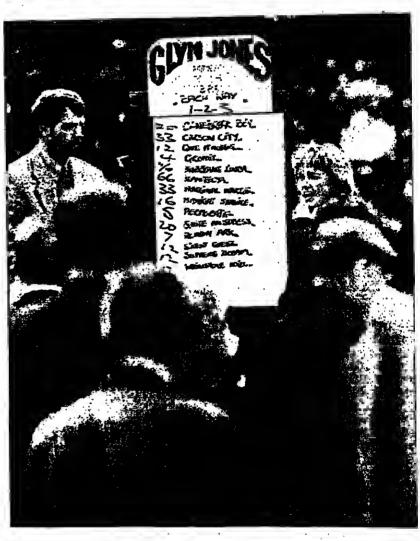
It is quite possible to back a few winners by trusting to common sense and the handy hints that can be obtained from buying a race card, which invariably contains a useful form guide

tains a useful form guide.

It's an ideal nursery for introducing young horses to racing and young humans to watching them race. It is also a useful pre-retirement home for decent chasers of yesteryear. And, for those townies seeking that rural weekend fix, the countryside, and many of its fiercest defenders, is there in all its splendour.

Copies of these photographs – and others by The Independent's sports photographers David Ashdown, Peter Jay and Robert Hallam – can be ordered by telephoning 0171-293-2534.















PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT HALLAM

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MECTIONIST Colinians of the bank of the beautiful to lead the the searcher winner of the bank of the manner of the bank of the manner of the bank of t

PCA Championship at Monday. And Monday in the first round on 6.7. five the fact which we have the first with the first wind the first wind the first wind the first wind the first side and one of the first side and the firs

Motorcycling: As the Isle of Man prepares for the annual TT, Mac McDiarmid marks the 20th anniversary of an extraordinary victory

Hail to the legend of Hailwood

1 CAN'T tell you where I was already assured, Hailwood went wheels for four, his former fans or what I was doing when Pres- on to notch up a further nine TT adored him. In Formula One car ident Kennedy died, and I'm already hazy about Lady Di. But, retiring from two-wheel racing ond at Monza in 1971, and he like a generation of motorcycle in 1967. What was more re-never quite had the talent to fans, I remember these things markable was the public affecvividly about the day our legend tion which greeted his success. died: 23 March 1981 was the day Stanley Michael Bailey Hailwood-decorated for bravery by the Queen and survivor of countless races on two wheels and four - died after a road accident on the way home from the chip shop. Greatness should not end this way ...

It will be 20 years next week since Mike Hailwood's most celebrated achievement. In 1978 he emerged, rusty and unfancied, from 11 years of retirement and took an equally unfancied Italian Ducati motorcycle to victory in the toughest race in the world. The man was already a legend, on the Isle of Man on 3 June 1978 he became a god.

The TT was hilled that year as the return of "Mike the Bike". Hailwood's first Isle of Man TT had been precisely 20 years before, when he had finished a startling third in the 250cc event, Fittingly, 1998 also marks the 50th hirthday celebrations of Honda, for in 1961 Hailwood gave both himself and Honda their maiden TT victories in the 125cc and 250cc Everything he did had an aura events. For good measure he of Corinthian grace. hrought a Norton home first in Grand Prix - to become the first week, a feat only exceeded, by Phil McCallen, in 1996.

wins and 111 world titles before racing, his best result was a sec-

Motorcycle racing was essentially a working-class sport. yet here was a public schoolboy. the son of an Oxfordshire millionairc, whom they openly



Hailwood: 'Perfect natural'

revered. Not only did racing hardware come easily to Hailwood - his father's lucre saw to that - hut the act of racing did, too. His style was consummate.

Yet although he cultivated an the Senior TT - then the British image of the "perfect natural",

equal John Surtees' feat of world titles on motorcycles and cars. But as well as dignity, he showed rare courage.

In 1973 in South Africa he hauled Clay Reggazoni out of a blazing Ferrari as marshals stood by impotently, a feat which earned him the George Medal. Only a lew months later his own car-racing career was shattered when he crashed his McLaren at the Nürburgring, seriously damaging a leg.

It was this half-crippled, halding has-been who, at the age of 38, had the temerity to return to the Isle of Man. The Formula One TT was the first event of the week, held in glorious weather before record-breaking

If there was a god in heaven, there could surely only be une winner. Honda, piquantly, had other ideas andtheir rider, Phil Read, would he Mike the Bike's main rival over six laps of the 37.73-mile course. Read was a contemporary of

Hadwood's, a multi-world champion himself, and workingclass to boot. Yet he was never held in the same esteem. Worse still was his denunciation of the "unsafe" Manx races, a position he recanted when the financial incentive became worthwhile. man in win three races in one tell you how hard he grafted on. To TT fans, Read was the traithe details; and what a tough tor to Hailwood's patriot. Some customer he was on the track. even threw rocks at him on his

Read started the race 50 sec- winning line. It could not have supply machinery. The Hail- for good. With over two decades never could, and quenched the onds ahead of Hailwood. After managed another mile.

two laps the pair were level on The fairy-story's other dithe road. Hailwood smashed the mension was that little Ducati class lap record, while Read's had trounced mighty Hunda, Inhike blew up trying to match the deed. Hailwood only agreed to pace. As Hailwood cruised to ride the Italian V-twin after

wood Duke was the ultimate almost single-handedly by Steve

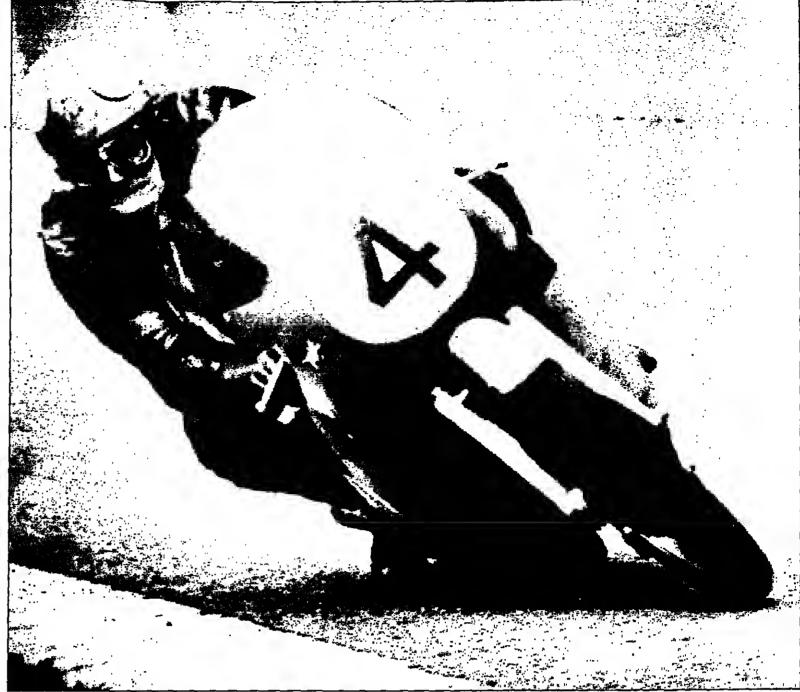
cycle dealer. victory his Ducati's engine self- Honda had denounced him as to win the Senior event in 1979, from the local chippie. A lorry The rider? Who else hut Mike's

His status as a racing great. Even when he abandoned two way to winning the 1977 race. destructed as it crossed the "over the hill" and declined to then hung up his racing leathers had done what the Isle of Man

of dicing with death behind shoestring racer, created him, he ought to have had a long and leisurely retirement ahead. Wynne, a Manchester motor-Hailwood returned to the TT ter. Michelle, driving home

Yet within two years he was dead killed, along with his daugh-

legendary flame. The final irony in an implausible story comes on Monday week when the Ducati ridden by Hailwood will thunder once more around the Isle of Man in the Classic Parade.



Mike Hailwood in his heyday as a working-class hero despite being a public schoolboy and the son of a millionaire

Honda expects to celebrate anniversary in style

world sport thunders into life for its annual festival of noise and 150,000 racing and practice

miles, writes Mac McDiarmid. They will pilot 150 horsepower machines between houses and hedges at speeds of up to 190mph. It is thrilling and

This year the injury roll call began early, with a trio of top Irish contenders likely to be ab-

most glorious anachronisms in way. Joey Dunlon, 22 times a TT winner, broke his left hand and be passed fit. collarbone, cracked his pelvis speed. Around 600 riders will and lost a finger crashing out of take part, completing over the Tandragee 100 races in

Two weeks later his younger brother, Robert, broke his fibula at the North-West 200 road races. Meanwhile, on 4 May, 11 times TT winner and hot favourite Phil McCallen damaged three vertehrae in a crash at Thruston, Hants.

lop probably the most likely to

If we can not be quite sure who will be riding, it is easier to predict which machinery will vin. This year marks Honda's 50th anniversary. The Japanese piant has chosen the Isle of Man, where it first made its mark on world racing in 1959, as the focus of its celebrations. The party includes a glittering parade of past Honda stars. many on classic factory racing All three await last-minute machinery. Amongst the riders stroke respectively, and will

Spencer, Luigi Taveri, Steve Hislop and Mick Grant.

To ensure that race results do not impair their party, Honda has recruited almost every racer of note in the major classes. The loss of McCallen and Joey Dunlop is less of a blow with former TT winners lan Simoson and Jim Moodie ready to take up the baton for honours in the hlue riband Formula 1 and Senior races. The Scots ride a RC45 V-four and NSR500 two-

ON MONDAY, one of the sent when practice gets under-medical tests, with Robert Dun- are Jim Redman, Freddie surely challenge for honours. this year. Beck has lapped the Simpson will also he hot favourite in the 600cc Junior

Less a TT veteran, but widetipped for his first win is Michael Rutter, son of former TT ace Tony. The 24 year-old has served his TT apprenticeship well. In last year's Senior he led McCallen, the man to beat, before sliding off. Rutter

also rides a Honda RC45. Simon Beck and Marc Flynn are two of the rare contenders not to be riding Hondas

rides Kawasakis in both the Formula 1. Senior and Production races. Flynn flies Suzuki colours.

Honda dominance - last year they took 44 of 60 top 10 places in the major solo events - could be most at risk in the Production event.

Reintroduced in 1996, the race is the world's showcase for sports roadsters. So far, Honda's Firehlade has had things all its



once arch rival, Phil Read.

Race programme:

Monday 1 June to Friday 5 June:

Saturday 6 June: 1.00pm: Formula 1 TT (6 laps) (Honda lap of honour follows F1 race) 5.00pm: Sidecar race A (3 laps) Monday 8 June: 10.45am: Lightweight TT (250cc) and Supersport 400 TT (4 laps); (:15pm: Sidecar race B (3 laps); 3.15pm: Classic parade lap. Wednesday 10 June: 10.45am: Ultra-Lightweight TT (125cc) and

Single Cylinder TT (4 laps); 1.15pm: Junior TT (600cc) (4 Friday 12 June: 10.45am: Pro-

duction TT (3 laps); 1.15pm: Senior TT (6 laps)

Players make hay as sun shines

THE ONLY one of the last nine major championship winners not under par after the first day of the Memorial Tournament was Mark O'Meara - and he was not competing.

PGA Championship winner Davis Love III was tied for the lead with Steve Pate, Trevor Dodds and Joey Sindelar after shooting a six-under-par 66 on Thursday on a firm and fast Muirfield Village layout.

But while players went low in the first round, no one separated from the field as 19 players were bunched within two strokes at the top of the leaderboard US Open champion Ernie Els was among seven players in at 67. Steve Jones, Tom Lehman and Mark Brooks, who won the US Open, the Open and the PGA in 1996, were two strokes hack at 68.

Justin Leonard, was in with a 69 and 1997 Masters champion Tiger Woods had a 70. O'Meara, the winner of this year's Masters, is playing in Germany this week. Even Nick Faldo, who has struggled since winning the 1996 Masters, got

in under par with a 71. "It's amazing, the scores," Love said, after he tested his sore hack for the first time in four weeks and made five hirdies in seven holes to surge to the top of the leaderboard.

The greens are perfect, the fairways are perfect, the course played a little shorter than it has in the past," Love said.

The reason the course played shorter was because the soggy sounds familiar to the Memorial Tournament in the past were gone. After rain that delayed. interrupted or cancelled 13 of the possible 36 rounds over the last nine years, the 23rd Memorial opened be-Last year's Open winner, neath hright sunshine, pre-

senting the players with a new set of challenges on an extremely fast course.

Among those rising to the occasion were Els, who usually starts playing well about this time of the year.

You got to be careful out there." Els said about the Jack Nicklaus-designed Muirfield course. "I played with Freddy [Couples] today and we hit so many three woods. You have to keep the ball in play."

While players were hitting eight and nine irons onto greens instead of the five and six irons needed last year, the Muirfield layout required more thought. Instead of just swinging with the driver and tackling saturated greens, players used irons off the tee to fairways that were running fast and they needed the patience to play approaches away from pins that were, in spots, too firm to go after.

Woods got off to a fast start and was three under par after in years.

five fifth hole but slumped to finish on 70, while Nicklaus shot a 74 and was eight strokes off the lead in the tournament he started.

Vijay Singh, who prospered in last year's rain-shortened 54-hole to take the title - a three-wood from the soggy 11th fairway to within inches of the hole for an eagle proving to be the key shot, had a 73 on Thursday. But this was not a soggy Muirfield for the first round.

"It's playing differently than it has for years," Stewart said after a round in which he missed only one fairway on his way to three hirdies and an eagle. With no detrimental weath-

er bearing down on central make for the kind of tournament this course has not seen

Ohio, it just might be that Muirfield will play the way Nicklaus designed it for the entire four days. And that could

Under par Monty blasts putting game

By John Oakley

in Hamburg

PERFECTIONIST Colin Montgomerie hlamed his putting for failing to lead the the Deutsche Bank Open in Ham-

burg yesterday. Montgomerie, winner of the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth on Monday, finished his first round on 67, five under par, two shots behind leader Paul McGinley and one

behind Peter Mitchell. But Montgomerie said as he

could have been an awful lot better. I left five putts bang in the middle of the hole. Very poor indeed.

"I didn't miss a fairway and I didn't miss a green and I'm only five under. I left the putts in the middle at the seventh, eighth, ninth, 17th and 18th, all right in the middle. It should have been very, very good."

Montgomerie had looked as if he would race away from the field after having four hirdies in his first six holes. But despite his immaculate golf came off the final green: "I from tee to green, he had only

one more hirdie, at the par five

McGinley is still some way from Montgomerie's class, hut the 31-year-old Irishman is determined to raise his game to another level.

After finishing with a sevenhirdie 65, McGinley said that though he was not exempt for the US Open next month he was almost certain to try and play his way in through the pre-qualifying round.

"I'm going to decide on Monday evening whether to go to the US Open," he said.

"If I go I will miss two tour naments here, the English Open and Slaley Hall, so it's a hig gamble for me.

Tm not even exempt for the Open Championship unless I win here this week, but I know if I want to be the player I want to he I have got to play in all the big tournaments so that is why the US Open is on my agenda.

"I've booked my flight and my hotel for the US Open qualifying in New Jersey on Tuesday week but it could jeopardise my position to get into the Open."

Goodison's chance to stand out

Sailing

By Stuart Alexander in Medemblik, Netherlands

THE absence of Olympic silver medallist Ben Ainslie has allowed the precocious talents of Paul Goodison, a 20-year old student at Southampton Institute, free rein in the Laser singlehander for the second consecutive day of the Spa regatta here yesterday.

As the forecasters predicted up to 25 knnts only for a second day of light and shifty airs to materialise. Goodison continued to exploit a love of the light conditions which has had his coaches demanding he put on weight and fitness to cope with a wider range of wind strengths.

After seven races, Goodison, who led at the end of the first day, was still second overall, one point and one place ahead of Olympic gold medallist and double world champion, Robert Scheidt of Brazil

Needing a top five place today in what may be the final race before the cut to the top 12 for the match racing, Andy Beadsworth, with crew Chris Mason and Barry Parkin need both the match race final practice and the opportunity to work on boat speed, especially downwind.

In the Star class Glyn Charles and new crew Mark Covell are holding their own at sixth, but Europe singlehander Shirley Robertson moves into the gold fleet with it all to do in the final four races.

Grubor ready to grab his chance in Redgrave's four

Rowing

By Hugh Matheson in Munich

THE British rowing team, which finished second overall last year, has sent its strongest line-up of boats to contest all of the 14 Olympic events in the first of the three Krombacher World Cup regattas here this weekend.

Steve Redgrave returns for his 18th senior season, once again in the coxless four which won the inaugural World Cup in 1977. Two weeks ago Tim Foster,

a founder member of the unbeaten four, was forced to stop rowing after putting his hand through a plate glass window at a party. He has heen replaced by Luka Grubor who obtained British citizenship recently after becoming the first Croatian to row for Oxford when he was picked for the 1997 Boat Race. Since leaving Oxford last

summer he has been training at Leander Club in Henley, alongside the four. It is a notable vote of confidence by Redgrave and his colleagues in the four. Matt

April, but who did well in seat races at the Docks earlier this Other more senior oarsmen are scattered through the crews

established at the neginning of May and were left alone, to avoid disruption, while Grubor makes his mark. They will face two Croatian fours, but the strongest challenge is likely to come from the Romanian crew which finished third in the world last year.

The best of the rest of the men's team are in the eight coached, as in 1997 when they finished fourth, by Martin Macllroy. They will race five crews from last year's championship final and have several changes including last year's coxless pair. Ben Hunt Davis and Bohby Thatcher, as well as the 1997 bronze medallists, Ed Coode and Stephen Trapmore. They are joined by Andrew Lindsay, who finished third in the pairs trials a week after losing the Boat Race with Oxford. The World Cup, now in its

Pinsent and James Cracknell, to second year and fully sponpick Grubor who finished ninth sored, has pulled all the top inin the coxless pairs trials in ternational crews into one three-regatta series in the European summer season. In the past, team managers played cat and mouse looking for the right level of preparation and competition in several venues. Now there is no choice. Thirty-two nations, including crews from Argentina, Brazil, and Cuba, will be joined in three weeks time at Hazenwinkel and Lucerne by Australia and New Zealand and

> all the North Americans. The British women's squad is expected to continue its revival under the chief coach. Mike Spracklen, after good results at Duisburg two weeks ago. The pair of Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop have been moved to double up in the eight which lost to Germany on the second day there.

In the single sculls Guin Batten who has taken several years to establish herself in the finalist class without ever breaking through into the medals is challenged by another Briton, the newcomer Catherine Grainger.

Quotes of the week

When he came round, the first thing he said was Don't take me off Glenn Hoddle. England's coach on Michael Owen's response to being knecked out against Morocco.

To be the youngest [England] scorer is a great record "to have. Owen on scoring the goal that beat Morocco.

derland or we'll cut your throat. Sick Sunderland fans warn Charffon's Clive Mendonca after his hat-trick led to his home-town club's defeat in the First Division play-off final.

Don't come back to Sun-

Maybe we used up too many prayers in 1973. Bob

Stokoe, who led Sunderland to the FA Cup that year. The most pleasing thing about today is seeing Emie Els sitting there in the runnerup spot. That's usually where i am. Colin Montgomerie plays the bride for a change at this week's PGA Champi-

By Martin Ayres

THE hreakaway specialist Viatcheslav Ekimov, of Russia. triumphed on stage five of the Prutour of Britain yesterday, with a surprise attack just over a mile from the finish of the 91-mile leg from Bristol to Reading. Australia's Stuart O'Grady sprinted home in second place to tighten his grip on the overall leadership.

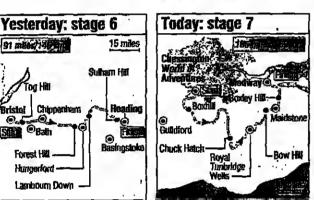
Ekimov, O'Grady and Britain's Chris Boardman were in a 13-man hreakaway group that sprinted clear of the main pack on Sulham Hill with five miles to go. As the leaders hurtled into Reading, Ekimov chose a small hill to make his

The former world and Olympic champion has scored most of his victories with late, lone attacks and he gambled everything on staying clear of the chasers.

The run in to the finish was very winding and hilly and I knew a lone rider would stand a better chance than a group," Ekimov said. "I guess I went from too far out and I really suffered, but I managed to hold out for my first win of the season."

He revealed that he has been suffering from a shoulder injury received in a racing crash

91 miles) 14 (4)



in early May. "It's painful to grip the hars but it's getting better every day," he said.

O'Grady's Gan team defended his lead throughout the stage and set him up for intermediate sprint wins at Cherhill, Marlborough and Wantage. His day's haul of 15 seconds in bonuses extend his overall lead to 36sec over team-mate Chris Boardman, who finished fifth.

"I was happy to be confined to team duties we're fully committed to keeping Stuart in the leader's jersey," Boardman said. "It's hard work and we've got another tricky stage tomorrow hut we'll be trying to keep a lid on the race.

Before the start at Bristol's College Green, riders and public paid two minutes silent tribute to police outrider Dave Hopkins who died in an accident the previous day on stage five.

The fatality, together with the incident on stage three when the field was sent off course, raised concerns that the new Tour's future might be endangered. However, Clare Salmon, the Pru's consumer marketing director, insisted that the company would stick to its three-year contract.

PRUTOUR (stage 6, Bristol to Reading, 91 miles): 1 V Edmov (US Postal Service) 3hr 30min 17sec; 2 S O'Grady (Gan) at 0:01, 3 A Korff (Festine), 4 C Dacruz (Eigmet Auber 93, 5 C Boardman (Gan), 6 N Slephens (Festine) at same time. Overalls; 1 O'Grady 21th 17min 04eec; 2 Boardman at 0:36; 3 D Bars-



Heading for the hills: The Prutour peleton heads out of Lambourn in Berkshire yesterday on the sixth leg from Bristol to Reading

Newton ahead in the race to be noticed

CHRIS NEWTON is the "other Englishman" in the Pruhunters clustered around Chris anonymously nearby, waiting to be called to the line,

And yet Newton has been all - 1min 43sec behind the race seconds down on Boardman.

He is the only British-based competitor to have made the top 12, but his efforts have

Martin Ayres meets the rider prepared to tour. While the autograph chew the handle bars to make the big time

stage start in Bristol, Newton sat coverage," he said. "It's pretty disappointing, but at least it keeps the pressure off me." Newton, 24, from Middles-

only a handful of seconds brough, seemed set to follow the behind Boardman throughout traditional route of Britons the race, and is now eighth over- seeking fame and fortune in cycling. After winning a hatful of leader Stnart O'Grady and 67 British titles, he signed for a French amateur team last year. Six victories in his French debut season ensured he was invited hack. But then a supergone largely unnoticed. "The enthusiast called Stuart Hallam only publicity I'm getting is in decided it was time Britain had

Boardman before yesterday's the results at the end of the TV a properly sponsored cycling team and formed the Brite

Voice squad. Newton was one of his first signings. "Twe no regrets about not going back to France. I decided my long-term financial future was more important,"

he said. The "Brite Boys", unbeatable in Britain this season. faced their first international challenge in the nine-day Prutour. Newton emerged as their front runner on day one, "chewing the handlebars" to

and other world-ranked riders road to Newcastle. "That was the ride that

caught the eye, but I think my performance on the second day was better as I had to stay with O'Grady, Boardman and Stephens over the main climbs and that was harder," he said.

Newton is relishing the opportunity to compete in a world-class event on home roads. "It's more controlled and tactical than British racing. especially in the early stages, then they really start to race in the last 50 kilometres."

Can be improve his overall

stay in contact with Boardman placing? "I've got to try, it's no use sitting on eighth place, I as the race blew apart on the would like to think I could get fourth, but the top three look pretty solid." Newton can sprint, climb

and time trial, a rare combination. I always thought of myself as a one-day rider, but as I mature I'm finding that stage racing is my thing. Until now I've always suffered one bad day in stage races, luckily it hasn't happened in this event."

If Newton's progress continnes he will have to decide whether he wants to be a big fish in a small British pond, or take the plunge into Continental racing - where there are events



Chris Newton: Learning to live with the best

of Prutour standard and higher every week.

"Yes, I'd like to go on the Continent, but I've got to weigh that against the fact that I'm very happy with the set-up at

Beefcake' Rowley sparks Blue Sox revival

current run of form, their hooker, Paul Rowley, might one day he recognisable with

Rowley is known for two sets of attributes. One is the pace and flair that make him one of the brightest prospects in his position; the other is the physique that has made him the public torso, if not the public face, of the game.

"I've never had so much publicity in my life," says Rowley of the weeks that followed Super League's use of his flesh in its "Beef on the Bone" poster campaign to launch the new sea-

Rowley's headless image was chosen, ahead of internationalclass beefcake like Alan Hunte and Rohhie Paul, to be displayed, modesty preserved only by a rugby hall, across the length and breadth of the coun-

sincere compliment, but there was a price for this sort of fame. The Sport phoned him at the gym six times in one day to ask for what can only be described as intimate details, before he succeeded in shaking

them off. It is no coincidence that he was tracked down at the gym, because few players have worked harder than Rowley to hone a body that not only looks good on hoardings but functions pretty damn well on the pitch.

Originally considered too small to pack down in the front row - even though a hooker's role now revolves almost entirely around his speed and invention at dummy half - he has turned himself into one of the strongest players for his size in the game.

He has also been one of the "They took some shots of key factors in a start to the seaplayers who had been on the son that has surprised even Men of League' calendar and Halifax's own supporters, with the girls in the office chose what five wins in their first seven League' advertising posters

IF HALIFAX continue their they thought was the best pose," Halifax are one of the surprise teams of There could be no more the season. Dave Hadfield reveals why

> matches putting them fourth in but now we all seem to get on the table as they go into today's fixture at Sheffield.

It is a far cry from last year, when the scale of the cluh's thrashings in the World Club Championships made Halifax a laughing stock on both sides of the world.

really well together and that shows on the pitch. There have been times when last season we might have given up, but this year we've dug deep. "It also has something to do with the new players who have

been brought in. If I had to pick The biggest difference from one out, it would be Gary Merlast year is that the spirit in the cer. He's playing superhly and, camp is a lot better," says Row- with all his experience, he can ley. "There were little cliques, steady the ship."



Hunky hoarding: Paul Rowley's torso as used on Super

with whom he played as a teenager at his home-town club,

Leigh, and who almost walked

out on Halifax two weeks ago. *It would have been tragic if he had left. The players didn't want him to go. John's a straight talker and he's respected for that. I think that's what he wanted from the board of di-

> some good." Rowley, still only 22, says that his own rote has changed this season. Although he was involved in protracted transfer speculation last year, his enterprise at the play-the-ball often seemed to be the side's one

rectors and hopefully it's done

hope of breaching defences. "I don't have the same feeling that it's up to me to produce something. Last season, it was all off the cuff; this time, it's more about a team perfor-

"Nobody at Halifax is getting carried away over the start minutes of fame for something we've made. We've caught a else, but still sees the rugby field

Rowley also gives great cred- they've underestimated us and it to his coach, John Pendlebury, that isn't going to happen any more. We know that a couple of defeats and we'll be on our way down to the bottom half of the table.

> "Going to Sheffield will be our hardest game so far, because they will be looking to kick-start their season." This afternoon's match also

brings him into direct opposition with John Lawless, who moved from Halifax after Rowley arrived. "When I came to Halifax, he

felt he had to go. He's got his

own ways and he's been very successful. Like me, he likes having a run when the chance Rowley might envy Lawless his Wembley appearance four

weeks ago, but not the way that another hooker, Darren Turner, often replaces him. "I'd hate that," he admits,

"I'm an 80 minute man." An 80 minute man who has had his 15 couple of teams cold when as the place to display his wares.



Paul Rowley believes it is the new team spirit that has made the difference to Halifax Photograph: Varley Wilkinson

Eagles lose Crowther for the season

By Dave Hadfield

SHEFFIELD EAGLES have lost their outstanding winger, Matt Crowther, for the rest of the season with a cruciate ligament injury.

"It's a very big blow, because Matt had been in excellent form," said the Eagles' coach, John Kear, who must decide between Lynton Stott and Neil Law to fill the gap for today's home game against Halifax. If Law plays, it will mark a first-team debut for the former Northampton rugby union centre.

Kear is also without Paul Carr and, almost certainly, Rod Doyle, and must choose between Dave Watson and Gareth Stephens at stand-off against a side which is proving as big a surprise packet in Super League as did Sheffield in the Challenge

"I'm not that susprised, because Halifax have recruited very well," Kear said. "Gary Mercer is being played exactly as he should be and Gavin Clinch is a very good player."

The match is doubly important for Sheffield after last Saturday's last-minute defeat by Leeds in circumstances that still have Kear fuming. He believes that the video of the match proves that the referee, Stuart Cummings, was wrong on two counts to award the penalty that won Leeds the match.

"But I have banned the players from talking about it. We have to be completely focussed on this match now, Kear said.

In tomorrow's programme, Leeds have the opportunity at St Helens to equal their best start to a season for more than 30 years, if they can win their eighth game on the trot.

sure on the whole squad," said with the unfortunate Crowther, has looked one of the canniest wingers in the competition.

We are top of the league and every club wants to knock us off, but f believe that every player is playing at the top of his game. Everyone is doing that little hit extra for each other." For Saints, their second row

Paul Sculthorpe has been cleared of n cracked sternum but is still rated doubtful.

Wigan must maintain the pressure on Leeds by winning at Holl. Tony Smith's knee injury gives Darryl Cardiss his chance at scrum-half after seeming set to move to Bradford a couple of weeks ago. John Monie opted instead to

let Rob Smyth go to London -

"There will be added pres- reluctant to do if he had known that Wendell Sailor was not Leeds' Paul Sterling, who, along coming - and Cardiss' versatility will be put to the test at the Boulevard. He has played wing and full-back for the first team, but scrum-half is probably the 19-year-old's best position. Simon Haughton is pre-

ferred to Mick Cassidy for a starting spot in the second row. but there is still no place for Terry O'Connor, despite the club teiling him this week that he is still wanted at Central Park.

Warrington try to keep their encouraging run of three victories going at point-less Huddersfield, although they must do so without the injured Mark Forster and Brendon Tuuta. Salford. with Andy Gregory

exiled to the stand for the first time, face Castleford without Steve Blakeley who has had something he might have been concussion.

MIKE SLATER, a powerful lost club professional from Cheshire, made light of Southampton's Meon Valley course with a six-under par 66 to lead the opening round of the Philips PFA Classic yesterday.

Slater, in his first year on the European Schior Tour after surprising himself and everybody else by topping the qualifiers at last October's Tour school, defied a teasing wind and testing course with seven hirdies and just one bogey.

"I just can't believe how well I am playing," said Slater, known to his friends as "Big Red" for his ginger hair when younger. When he tapped in for his seventh hirdie at the 18th, he set up a new low for the Challenge de France after

Southampton course, extended another day of low scoring at with 55 players, including two

Slater uses his power to hold off Coles

to a par 72 for the tournament. Slater leads by a shot from the 63-year-old former Ryder Cup player Neil Coles, England's David Creamer and the Florida-hased frish professional, Joe McDermott, also in his first year on tour and winner of the AIB Irish Seniors Open two weeks ago.

The tournament incorporates the Professional Footballers' Association championship with past and present players partnering the senior golf professionals. The former Manchester City chairman and England striker Francis Lee led the first day with 40 Stableford points.

In France, Sweden's Marten Olander added a 69 to his opening round of 65 to maintain a one-shot lead in the

Sable Solesmes near Le Mans.

Olander is now on the 10-under-par total of 134 but is under a dual threat from Alexandre Balicki and Lionel Alexandre. two Frenchmen who are not regular Challenge Tour members. Balicki carded 68 and Alexandre returned 69 to lie on

treland's David Higgins returned a best-of-the-day 67 to move into joint-fourth place on 136, one ahead of the Londoner Daren Lec, who dropped back after n 70.

Sheffield's John Mellor was another to return a 67, which ensured he finished well inside the halfway cut, while Scott Watson and Scotland's Mike Miller were round in 68 to move into challenging positions.

The cut came at two-under

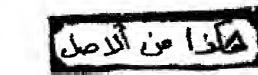
French amateurs, surviving for the final two rounds.

Among those who missed out were the former Walker Cup men David Park, who was one over the limit after a 67, and Gordon Sherry with 75 for 145.

The former European Tour regulars David A Russell Gordon J Brand and Steven Bottomley also made early exits.

At Kami, Japan, Noboru Fujike shot an even-par 71 yesterday and stayed two strokes ahead of Shigeki Maruyama after the raindelayed second round of the Mitsubishi Galant tournament. A total of 67 players were unable to finish their second

Fujiike's round of one birdje and a bogey left him on 131, 11-



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THE BARTOLI, de l'Ald Cup champion trum the 13th stage of brollay in a three week Me team-male A a le cok ove the race's

land aged his fallow that Miles Guerini and Pac-Benish with Nos the said hack in the raing Not in rides with Berton d Beds on the Asies temperature from second place

mal know the pink jersey here the passes who were acing results

By John Roberts

IF Pete Sampras really is desperate in win the French Open title nne day, he should perhaps swallow his pride and go into spring training with the Spanish clay-court specialists.

The experience appears in have worked wonders for Marat Safin, a bold young Russian who has been based in Valencia for the past four years learning his trade. Yesterday he created history, becoming the first qualifer to defeat a men's Grand Slam singles champion in the

Safin out-lasted the Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten in the second round, 3-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4. In the npening round the 18-yearthe npening round the 18-year-old Muscovite, ranked No 116 cause of an injury in his but-tocks. Chang led, 7-5, 6-3, 3-0. in the world, eliminated Andre Agassi in five sets.

Kuerten, the Nn g seed, joined Sampras, Petr Korda, Bjorkman out of the tournament, leaving Marcelo Rios (No as the only seed from the top eight to survive to the last 32. It is the first time this has happened at a Grand Slam in the Open era.

A year ago, Kuerten surprised everybody by becoming nnly the second unseeded player to win the French title in the open era (Mats Wilander, in 1982, was the other). The prospects of a third emerging have increased day by day as the reigning Grand Slam champions

have disappeared, Korda, followed by Sampras, fullowed yesterday by Kuerten and Rafter, who was defeated by his Australian compatrint Jason Stoltenberg, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Rios remains the firm favourite to improve upon his disappointing performance in the Australian Open final in January. The Chilean, who is only two wins away from overtaking Sampras again as the world No1, advanced to a fourthround match against Spain's Albert Costa yesterday when Wayne Ferreira retired hurt af-

Rios was leading 6-I, 3-3. Michael Chang, the Nn II seed and the only American left in the draw, reached the third round after his Dutch opponent, John van Lottum, retired be-

Safin's progress has caused quite a stir, not least because of his first name. Did he know anything about Jean-Paul Marat, Greg Rusedski, Pat Rafter, the French revolutionary who Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Jonas wrote Friend of the People and was stabbed to death in his bath by a royalist, Charlotte Corday? "Yes, yes, yes."

And was he in any way, shape or form named after

"Nn, my name is Arabian." This particular Marat is a friend of Anna Kournikova, who was also in fine form yesterday, defeating Sweden's Asa Carlsson, 6-0, 6-0, to advance to the fourth round of the women's singles.

we were like five years nld, because we're from the same club in Moscow," Kournikova said. "We went to America the first time with a group together, it was like 15 kids. I know him very well. We are almost the same age. Ynu know he's been practising in Spain. He was always a great player. I practised with him in Russia many times. I think he's got a great game. It probably helped him a lot that he's practised in Spain, not in Russia. It's very difficult con-

Inevitably, Safin was asked if ter twisting his right ankle when he would like to play nn the lawns of Wimbledon. "Yes," he said, "I don't think I have enough time to practise on grass. I'll go directly to the Wimbledon "qualies" after Split, where I am playing a Challenger. I have never played nn grass, so I will take 15 rackets in break."

ditions practising in Russia."

Speaking of which, Agassi, having come to terms with his defeat by Safin here in Paris, has asked for a wild card to be saved for him for the Stella Artois Grass Court Championships at London's Queen's Club nn Monday week.

The Las Vegan will make a final decision early next week. His coach, Brad Gilbert, is keen for him to play.

Sampras, the Wimhledon champion, has already confirmed that he will take a wild card for Queen's after losing to the Paraguayan Ramon Delgado in the second round in Paris. For some, the grass is already greener nn the other side of the



Curtains for Kuerten: The French Open champion plays a backhand during his defeat yesterday by Russian qualifier Marat Safin

New stars remind Seles of her own precocity

the observation that the current appear to be more kindly dis- who was not amused. posed to each other than she reving on the

professional scene, aged 15. "I think the circuit is really nice right now." Seles said after her much admired return to Karolj. "I think the girls are are very mice. Obviously, I'm more mature, too, so I look at a lot of things differently."

court at Roland Garros while Open. On another occasinn

this week, Monica Seles made tiently at the net to toss for the choice of ends. Seles even ofgeneration of teenage players fered a bloom to her opponent,

rly events on the WTA Tour. a Lamborghini. Seles went to the tournament office and thanked the staff for their help. When she did not leave, she was asked, "Are you the sport only 12 days after the waiting for your father, Mnnideath of her father and coach, ca?" "No," she replied, "I'm waiting for my cheque."

Influenced by the court couturier Ted Tinling's fond memories of Suzanne Lenglen, the It is hard to believe that nine French tennis icon, Seles years have elapsed since a pre- charmingly dressed up in 1930s cocious Seles handed flowers to style for her press conference spectators on all sides of a after winning the Australian

DURING the French Open Zina Garrison waited impa- Monica Seles believes that women's tennis is now more friendly. John Roberts talks to an acute observer of the new generation

ther a hundle of fun or gruntingly, irritating. Her talent was never io doubt. Asked in 1990. after winning her first Grand Slam title at the French Open, if success was likely to change her, she replied, "No, I'll just

stay the same little nid me." Unfortunately, eircumstances conspired against her. The 24-year-old Seles has experienced little other than an- the United States Open and the guish since she was stabbed in Australian Open. Hingis's reign

her father had to remind her the hack by a deranged Steffi is under threat from the After winning one of her that she was too young to buy Graf obsessive at the age of 19. Williams sisters, Venus and Depending on your point of eight Grand Slam titles and Kournikova, and Mirjana Luview, the skittish Seles was ei- had overtaken Graf as the

world No 1. During her struggle to regain fitness and form since making a comeback in 1995. constantly worrying about her father's failing health, Seles has seen the emergence of an exciting new class of young players led by Martina Hingis. the 17-year-old world No 1 and champion of Wimbledon,

by which time she had won Serena, the Russian Anna cic, of Croatia - threat as in rivalry, that is.

"It's always tough when you're the No 1 player at a young age." Seles said. "You see that with the new youngsters. Some of them are not the most liked in the locker room. That's just normal. But I think most of the players who I've talked to respect me. Very few people have been off the tour for a long time and come back and done well. You're just hanging in

there. All of us have persocal or family problems, the kind of things all the players go through

"I just think the players right now are much more wellrounded than when I first came on the tour. Then it was so different, because most of the people were all 15 years nider than I was. You don't have much in common. There was really just Jennifer [Capriati] and myself, and before that [Gabriela] Sabatini and Steffi. Now there are five of them."

Middlesbrough will compete in a four-

Surrey yesterday losing four and three to Blaine Raidliffe. It was sweet revenue

to Bloine Ratcliffa. It was sweet revenge for Curtis Cup star Paccliffe, the 25-year-old Cheshire champion, as Rou-tron beat her in the final at Saunton a

Seles does not pretend that everything can be sweemess at the highest level of such a

Football

Golf

ness. "I can't really say. Martins [Hingis], Anna, Venus and at some at some point in their Mirjana have been tremencareer. It was really nice to get dous towards me. They said to share these with some of some wonderful things. I think towards each other it's a little hit different.

"When you look back at Steffi. Steffi had the same arrogance on the court when she was the top player, and Martina [Navratilova], and Chrissie [Evert]. I think when you're No 1, you have that a little bit. "What I love about [the

new group] is they're very focused and really have strong determination. This might change once you're out nf your teenage years. So many things can happen. If they keep going, I real-



Seles: 'The girls on tnur are very nice'

ly bope that each one of them is going to be No 1 at some stage in their careers. 1 really helieve each one deserves it from what I've seen up to this

Sporting Digest

Bartoli avoids slips to claim stage victory

MICHELE BARTOLI, the up to 650 meters (2,145 feet) 1997 World Cup champion, avoided the disasters befell two of the leading competitors vesterday to win the 13th stage of the Tour of Italy in a three-man sprint, and his team-mate Andrea Noe took ove the race's overall lead.

Bartoli edged his fellow Italians Giuseppe Guerini and Paolo Bettim at the finish, with Noe three seconds back in the rainy

Noe, who rides with Bartoh and Bettim on the Asics team. moved up from second place from Laurent Roux, who won Thursday's 12th stage hut fal- the damage done to his chal-

above sea level.

Zülle, who held the overall lead for much of the event, and one of the leading contenders, Marco Pantani, were part of a three-man hreakaway up the final climb, which came 10km (6 miles) before the finish. However, both tumbled twice on the slick roads going downhill and were overtaken.

Bartoli covered the 166km (103 miles) from Carpi to Schio in northern Italy in 3hr 58min 2sec. Pantani recovered to finoverall. He took the pink jersey ish only 16 seconds behind him, and Zulle managed to restrict

tered on the final climb Friday, lenge by clawing his way back tn finish 22 seconds off the pace. "We worked hard going up-

The race favourite Alex hill and then nn the downhill stretch we attacked and it went well," said Noe, who claimed his first victory as a professional in Wednesday's 11th leg. He holds a six-second advantage over Bartoli in the

standings, with Switzerland's Zölle lying in third place, a further 21sec behind the new leader. The hardest stretch of the Giro begins with today's 14th

stage, 165km (102 miles) from Schio to Piancavallo, in the Dolomite mountains. The 22-stage race ends

June in Milan.

dlesex's Kubart Owolabi, who is a former champion of Nigeria, and Sue Collier

Baseball AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore S Yexas 2; Chicago While Sox 11 Detroit 7 (10 in-nings); Seattle 5 Tampa Bay 2; Cleveland 6 Toronto 2; New York Yenkees 8 Boston

to secure title

Young poised

TERRY YOUNG, Britain's brightest teenage prospect, is the favourite to win the men's singles at the British Grand Prix at Bath Sports Centre this weekend. Young is at the top of the

leaderboard, having played in all nine rounds of the circuit. He has gained 26 more points than Carl Prean. Matthew Syed, the English champion and national No 1, has qualified in the third spot but has turned down his place.

Both the Welsh champion, Ryan Jenkins, and the Scottish title holder, Euan Walker, have qualified for the men's singles final rounds. The final stages of the

women's event look likely to be dominated by the holder, Mid-

ct (ft) Politi; 7 A Zirtichenko (Pus) Vitelicio; 8 R Jeermann (Swit) Cusino; 9 J L Rubiera (Sp) Kelme; ali same tino; 10 MA Perdigunto (Sp) Kelme; +42 13th Stage (168tm, Carpi to Schlo); 1 M Bartoli (II); 2 G Gueri-ni (II); 3 P Bettini (II); 4 A Noe (II).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: St Louis 4 Colorado 1; Philadelphia.8 Chicago Cube 7; Montreal 8 Atlanta 5; Los Angeles 4 Cinchnell 3; Art-zona 8 San Francisco 7.

HOMAS TAYLOR WOMEN'S TOURNA-MENT (Winterloo, Bleekpool) Third round: C Kaye (Mirliel) bt S Liley (Bus-ton) 2:-1; E Wootnorton (Mirliel) bt M Stephendson (Hutton) 2:-16; M Lyons (Liverpool) bt S Taibot (Hutton) 2:-10; H Harrigan (Coverny) bt C Simpson (Layland) 2:-10; M Woodward (Wigen) bt J Hill (West Kirby) 2:-13; L Gorman (Pensby) bt D Hunt (Swinten) 2:-13; P Crowtine (Pensby) bt B Mallen (Liverpool) 2:-17.

Boxing The Scottish Sports Council will set up an independent commission to address concerns about the future of amup an independent commission to address concerns about the future of amateur boxing north of the border. The Council has intervened because of the sports spit between the Scottlish Amateur Boxing Association and the recently formed Scottlish Amateur Boxing Federation, Graeme Simmers, chairmen of the Scottlish Sports Council weet consists on what

oil, wants greater focus on what needs to be done to increase mem-bership numbers and improve training at grassroots level. Cycling GIRO D'ITALIA 12th Stage (2021cn, San Marino to Caraji: 1 L Rouz (F) TVM 4hr Strhit Sec; 2 S Smotarine (Rus Vitalico same time; 3 G Pierdomenico (II) Cantina 2sec beland; 4 M Hvestija (Sloven) Candina + 46; 5 P Leritanchi (II) Mapai; 5 F Qui-

yest-out cleans of team and a year ago.

ENGLISH WOMEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPHONSHIP (Walloo Heath, Surrey) Deseate-finale: E Ratciffe (Sundway) bt K Roston (Citheron) 4 and 3; K Supplee (Poyal Cinque Porte) bt C Court (Geodescod) a and 2; S Heath (Telford) bt K Knowles (Norphedion) 4 and 3; L Weiters (Knowles (Norphedion) 4 and 3; L Weiters (Knowles (Norphedion) 4 and 3; L Weiters (Charles (Northes Charles) 2 and 1. Seed-finale: Packfir bt Stupplee 1 hole; Weiters it Heath 8 and 2.

MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT (Dublin, Chilo Leading first-round acores (US unless stated): 96 5 Pale; T Docks (Nam); J Studels; D Love, 67 K Triplett; A Mages; C Stadier; P Stewart; T Trybe; E Es (SA); G Kraft, 68 M Brooks; L Janzen; H Frazzer; L Mattaco; F Coupler; S Jones; 7 Lehman; M Celcarecchia, 98 D Forman; 8 Geberg-c; J Huston; J Hast; G Hjersted (Swel); B Cuipley; J Leonard, Others: 70 T Wooda, 71 N Feldo (SB).

The number of interna-

tional caps the former has won. The much-travshin in time to play some Frankfurt today.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP (Utrecht): Play-off for places 8 to 12: England 3 Chins 0; Scotland 5 India 3. Play-off for places 5 to 8: South Africa 1 New Zealand 3; US 0 Ice hockey

NHL PLAY-OFFS Finals: Eastern Confer error: Washington 4 Buffelo 3 (ot). (Washington lead best of seven series 2-1). Motorcycling

team tournament in the Netherlands before their return to the Premiership. Boro, Anderlacht, and two Dutch sides will meet from 6 to 10 August. Motorcycling
French Grand Prix (Le Castellet): qualifying season (circuit a.B1ion): 50boc:
1 C Checa (Sp) Honda Imin 21558sec (average speed 156733(sh)); 2 M Doohan (Aus) Honda 121755; 3 A Crivile (Sp) Honda 121870; 4 M Biaggi (f) Honda 122220; 5 L Cadalora (t) Warnels 122230; 7 N Abs (Japan) Yamaha 122330; 8 K Roberts Jnv (US) Moderast (RS 122422 Before this event Middlesbrough with stage a tournement with Newcastle, Bentica and Fiorentina. Reigning champion Kim Rostron was knocked out of the English Ladies' Am-ateur Championship at Walton Heath,

(US) Modernas KRS 1:22422
250cc: 1 Tetrauya Herrada (Japen) Aprilia.
1:23854 (swarage speed: 683140 kph); 2
V Roesi (finky) Aprilia. 1:24589; 3 L Capirossi
(fi) Aprilia. 1:24573; 4 J Fuchs (Ger) Aprilia.
1:24820; 5 S Porto (Arg) Aprilia. 1:24871; 7 T
Ulassa (Japen) Horrida. 1:24871; 7 T
Ulassa (Japen) Horrida. 1:2512; 8 J Ulas Cardoso (Sp) Yamaina. 1:25140.
1:25cc: 1 N Uleau (Japen) Horrida. 1:23002
(average speed: 53:704 kph); 2 K Satosta.
(Japen) Aprilia. 1:29551; 3 Y Uf (Japen)
Yamaina. 1:29567; 4 R L ocasiali (Di Horrida.
1:29921; 5 M Melandri (Ib) Horrida. 1:29392;
6 T Marasto (Japen) Horrida. 1:30277; 7 A
Vincent (Ff) Aprilia. 1:30335; 6 F Petit (Ff)
Horrida. 1:30454.
Onionetocoxione.

Orienteering Scandanavian athletes took five of the

six medals competed for in the first British race of the 1998 World Cup. In British race of the 1998 World Cup. In the women's race, Britain's Yvette Hague finished in seventh place.

WORLD CUP (Greythwaite Estate, Laice District): Men's race (125m clisus): 1 J lvanson (Swe) 8thin 05esc; 2 B Valstad (Nor) 81.08; 3 C Terfesien (Den) 81.30; 4 J Britis (Swe) 8238; 8 C H Bjorseth (Nor) 8438; 48 C H Bjorseth (Nor) 8438; 48 C H Bjorseth (Nor) 8438; 48 C H Bjorseth (Nor) 8538; Women's race (590m climb): 1 J Clestanova (12: Papi Shimin 45esc; 2 J Askot (Fin) 68.40; 3 R Myrvold (Nor) 68.55; 4 H Staff (Nor) 69.47; =4 L Antilla 6847, GB; 7 Y Hague 70.44; 11 H Moraro 72.32

Speedway PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Edinburgh v Glasgow (postponed, track wets/logged). Squash

Scotland's Peter Nicot remains world No 1 in the June rankings, his fifth successive month on top. Palóstein's former world chemplon Jameher Khan is second with the Caractian Jonathon Power third and current world champion Rodney Eyles, of Australia, fourth England boest the highest top 20 complement with seven players. PSA WORLD RANKINGS Top 20: 1 P Nicol (Sco); 2 J Khan (Pak): 3 J Power (Can); 4 R Byles (Ass); 8 A Bascala (Rg); 9 A Coupt (Me); 7 S Parket (Eng); 8 D Herrie (Eng); 9 P Johnson (Eng); 10 A Hill (Me); 11 D Johnson (Aus); 19 M Challoner (Eng); 13 C Waller (Eng); 14 P Mershall (Eng); 15 M Chains (Eng); 14 P Mershall (Eng); 15 M Chains (Eng); 18 D Davies (Aus); 17 M Heeth (Sco); 18 D Ryan (H); 19 S Castaleyn (Bol); 29 G Ryding (Cen).

Tennis

1 Pete Sempres, is another of the wild-card entries into the grass-court tour-nament on 8 to 14 June which is the traditional curtain-raiser to Wimbledon. Both Sampras and Agessi, who would be making his first appearance at Queens, made early exits from the French Open in Paris this week and are eager to use the event as prac-tice for the All England Champi-onships, which start on Monday 22 June.

June.

FRENCH OPEN (Stade Roband Gerroe, Paris) Merr's singles, second round: M CHANG (US) bt J Van Lottum (Neth) 7-5-62-9-0 rst, J Stothenberg (Aun) bt P RAFIER (Aun) 64-26-8-6-2; M Setin (Rus) bt G (KUERTEN (Br) 3-6-7-8-3-6-6-1-6-4; M Gustafisson (Swe) bt O Princel (Ger) 64-6-3-8-7-6-1; O Vacels (C2 Rep) bt J M Gambil (US) 6-4-2-6-7-5-7-6; F Clavet (Sp) bt O Delsitre (Fr) 6-2-8-4-6-7-6-7-6; F Clavet (Sp) bt O Delsitre (Fr) 6-2-8-4-6-7-6-7-6-8-1; O Mraely (Sp) bt G Solves (Fr) 6-3-3-6-3-6-4; O Hrberty (Slovet) bt J A Viloca (Sp) 8-3-6-3-6-3. Trind round: M RIOS (Chie) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-2-3-1 ret, A COSTA (Sp) bt B UErrach (Oz Rep) 6-3-6-3-6-0; C MOVA (Sp) bt A Re (Aus) 6-2-7-6-3: T Muster (Aut) bt C Van Garres (Re) 6-2-4-6-7-5-6-2; F Mether (Aut) bt C Van Garres (Re) 6-2-4-6-7-5-6-2; F Mether (Aut) bt C Van Garres (Re) 6-2-4-6-7-5-6-2; F Mether (Aut) bt C Van Garres (Re) 6-2-4-6-7-5-6-2; F Mether (Aut) bt C Van Garres (Re) 6-2-4-6-7-5-6-3-6-2. Women's singles, second round: I Ma-

Women's singles, second round: I MA-JOLI (Cros) bt N Zvereus. (Bels) 6-3 6-4; S Farins (Di bt J Kruper (SA) 4-6 6-3 6-0; P Schmyder (Swif) bt J Halard-Decupis (Fr) 6-3-3-6 6-1; M Disz-Oliva (Arg) bt S Plank (Kor) 6-2 6-2 Third round: V SILIAMS (US) bt A Decheume-Ballerst (Fr) 6-2 6-1; A Smashnosa (bts) bt 8 Fittiner (Ger) 1-6 (AS) to A Street Indian (US) bit & Rither (Ger) 6-4 6-1; C Rubin (US) bit M Seeki (Jep 6-36-4; M SELES (US) bit & Schwartz V 6-36-4, in SELES (US) bit a Schmidt Verific Fi) 7-63-66-1: A KOURNICONA (Rus) bit A Carleson (Swe) 8-08-0; JNOMOTNA (CZ Rep) bit Etapricova (Ulr) 6-37-6; M+INGIS (Swit) bit K Habsuclova (Slovak) 6-36-2. Men's doubles, first round: O Sepsiord and C Wikinson (GB) bit A Di Pesquate and J Jesnyletene (Fr) 8-1, 8-1; ETINGH and P HAARHUS (Neth) bit W Arthurs and A P HAARHUS (North) by W Arthurs and A Kratzmarm (Aus) 6-3, 6-4; P Kidenry and K Kinnear (Aus/US) by L Jensen and M Jensen (US) 7-8 6-2; 2 Coupe and B Noteboom, (US/Note) by N Excude and G Resoux (F) 6-2-7-6; P GALERATH and 8 STEVEN (US/NZ) by A Clement and J Golmand (F) 5-8 6-0 7-5; G Stationd and K Liliyett (SA) by O Adams and S Dosedel (SA/CZ Rep) 6-4, 6-2.

Worsen's doubles, first round: C Crisies and L Montalvo (Rom/Arg) bt 8 Jeyesse-lan and R Simpson (Can) 6-1, 6-3; A PU-SAI and N TALIZIAT (Fr) bt R Bobkova and SAI and N TAUZIAT (Fr) bt R Boblova and E Malicharova, Cx Rep 8-1, 2-4, 8-0; J Lee and Shi-Ting Wang (tale) bt J Husarova and N Medvedeva (Slovek/Llo) 6-3-4-6, 8-4; L Gobars and M Paz (R/Arg) bt N De Villers and L McShea (SA/Aus) 7-5-7-5, V PLI-ANO-PASCUAL and P SUAREZ (SA/Arg) bt A Elwood and N Prati (Aus) 6-3-6-2, A KOURNKOVA, and L NELAND (Rus/Lef) bt P Kernstra and S Rottler (Neth) 6-2-8-3.

A Second

2.20: 1. DAY-BOY (K Falion) 12-1; 2. Three Green Leaves 7-1; 3. Flori 10-1.8 Three Grown Lawyes 7-1; 3: FIOH 10-1 at mas. 6-1; fax Aco of Parises. 1-4; 4. (Danys Smith, Bishop Auctional). Take: £12:30; £2:50. £150.

Racing results

pound.
250; 1. ASTRAC (Alex Greenes) 9-2; 2. Ryefield 5-1; 3. Johnsyno 20-1; 8 ran. 4-1 fav Tier (8th), 1½, 2. (D. Nicholls, Thisk). Tote: 5380; 5250; 5190, 5230. DF: 51970. CSF: 52122 Ticast: 520351.
3.20: 1. ORBMELIE (K. Fallon), 11-4; 2. MRBing 7-4 fav; 3. Coene Up Smiling 5-2. 8 ran. Ns. 2; 9: Chapple-Hyam, Martion). Tote: 5270; 510, 5120, 5140. DF: 5330. CSF: 5828.
3.50: 1. YAMAMA'S PACE (D. Holland).

3.50: 1. YANANA'S PACE (D Holland)
7-2 law; 2. Begornet 9-2; 3. Top Jern 9-2
9 ran. 14. 1½. (M. Johnston, Mickelsham)
Tota: \$4.00; \$2.20, \$1.30, \$3.20, DF: \$9.00
CSF: \$5.75; Teast: \$5.861 Tric: \$9.00
4.20: 1. \$1.95TPEAM (D Holland) 6-4
law; 2. Wombures 9-1; 3. Go With The Wind
9-1 7 ran. 7. 8. (R Guest, Newmarkst). Tota:
\$1.90; \$2.00, \$3.70; DF: \$2.960, CSF: \$12.98
4.50: 1. THE BEHNRO'S (D Holland) 5-1;
2. Rose Royale 5-2 law; 3. Celebration
Calm 14-1, 11 tan. 8, 3. (J Goldie, Kilmetrock). Tota: \$7.00; \$2.20, \$1.01, \$2.80.
DF: \$4.20, CSF: \$13.22 Tricset: \$1.571, Trics
\$1.77. 3.50: 1. YAYANA'S PACE (D Holland)

Jackpot: £38,931.90. Placepot: £85,80. Que Place & 233.23 Place 5: 2703 CATTERICK

CATTERICK
2.00: 1. TAMARA (D Harrison) 12-1;
2. Aguria 7-2 fars, 3. Pride of Londubh
8-1 13 ram. 1½: 1, U Bethel, Mickelman)
10te: £:940; 2430, 2140, 2240, DF:
2250. CSF: £:5139. Trio: £:0340,
2.30: 1. PIGEON (T Wilsons) 5-1; 2.
Hayburner 20-1; 3. Franch Pride 20-1,
14 ram. 100-30 fav Charlies Bride (Sth);
4.1½, D Barker, Richmond, Reta: \$4.50,
2.570, £1400. DF: £:0440. CSF:
£:030. Trics: £:0440; CSF:
£:030. Trics: £:0440; Trio: £:26470,
3.00: 1. GOOD HAND (J Facture) 11-4; 2. Brodesse 9-4 fav; 3. Hilizath 3-1,
8 ram. 7, 13. (S Kettlewel, Mickelman),
10te: £:440; £:10, £:170, £:140, DF: £:370,
CSF: £:909. NF: Sahu,
3.30: 1. ETERNITY (D Hertleon) 5-1;
2. Aldwych Arrow 9-4; 3. Such Boldmess 2-1 fav. 4 ram. Sin-hd, 10, 1) Fanshaws, Newmarket), Tota: \$420, DF: £700.
CSF: £:1494.

Share, Newmarket, Polic 2021 DF: 2700 CSF: £1494. 4.00: 1. PALACEGATE JACK (C Lowther) 11-4 fev; 2, Silk Cottage 7-2; 3, Insider Trader 4-1 10 ran, Nic, 1 (J

Berry, Cockerham), Tote: £3.50; £4.80, £1.50, £2.50, DF: £5.70, CSF: £12.60, Trio: 2650. 4.30: 1. ARJAN (C LOWING) 5-1; 2. 4.30: 1. ARIAN (U LOWTET) 5-1; 2. Pleasure Time 4-1; 3. Superbit 6-1 10 ran. 9-4 tax Mahasuria. 5, %, (J Barry, Cockerham). Tota: 26/40; \$2.30, \$1.50, \$2.80. DF: \$2.040 CSF: \$2.30, \$1.50, \$2.80. DF: \$2.040 CSF: \$2.31, \$10, \$2.80. DF: List Dissident, \$10, \$2.93. D Oundhook Prizer Placepot: £313.50. Quadpot: £15.6 Place 5: £226.18. Place 5: £96.46.

WOLVERHAMPTON 2.10: 1. CHEERFUL GROOM (Mrs S Bosley) 6-1; 2. Mr Nevermind 8-1; 3. Inslem Symphony 4-1, 13 ran. 3, rik. (D. Shaw), Rose: £780; £190, £180, £310, DP: F4210 CSF: E4645, Tricest: £198.97, Tric:

2.40: 1. BONGO (J F Egan) 7-2; 2. China Castle 4-1; 3. Ki Chi Saga 5-2 fav. 13 ran. 8, 1½. (P Evans). Tota: £780; £310, £250, £110. DF: £830. CSF: £15.77.

3.10: 1. FIVE OF SPADES (F. Norton)
16-1; 2. First Mailto 3-1 fav; 3. King of
Paru 13-2. 12 ran. 3"/4. 4 (R. Faite), Totac
2860; 5800, £180; £200, DP. £78.70.
CSP: £5926. Tricast: £333.44. Tric:
£3250. NF: Mailto. 3.40: 1. NO WARNING (G Duffield) 8-11 fat; 2. Maybe Special 7-4; 3. Gold Honor 9-1 8 ran. 8, sht-hd. (Sir Mark Prascott). Tota: £2:10; £1:20, £1:10, £1:50. DF: £1:50. CSF: £2:38.

DF: \$150. CSF; E230. 4.10:1. STATE APPROVAL (N Calen) 3-10 fay; 2. Aventi Blue 6-1; 3. Polony 25-1 8 run. 20, 1%. (Miss S Witon). Tota: \$130; \$100, \$190, \$290. DF: \$230, CSF: 4.40: 1. ZOBAIDA (P Robinson) 11-2 2. River Ensign 10-1; 3. Arbenig 7-2 tov. 12 ran. 5, 1/4. (M Jervid, Tote: £650; £200, £290, £230. DF: £4190. CSF: £5889. Tri-

cast £21039, Trio: £15190. Placepot £1930, Quadpot £450.

Piece 6: £1059. Piece 5- £375.

Weekend fixture guide TODAY Football INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY IISA v Scotland (6-30pm BST).

(at RFK Stactium, Washington DC) Rugby League JUB SUPER LEAGUE: Shelfield Eagles Heidax Blue Sox (3:5). Rugby Union TOUR MATCHES: Boland v Ireland (215) (at

Wedington, SA); Victoria v Scotland (6)

Speedway ELITE LEAGUE: Coventry's Ipswich (720); Eastbourne v Poole (7:30). PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Berwick v Stole

TABLE TENNIS: Grand Prix finals (Bath)

Other sports

TOMORROW Football WOMEN'S WORLD CUP Qualifier: Scoliand v Lithuanie (20) fet Scotstour Leisure Centre, Glengow).

Rugby League LIB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE: Hudden-field v Warrington (330); Hull v Wigen (3.5); Salford v Cestileford (20); St Helens v Leads (3.5), First Division: Featherstone v Humaist (3.50); Kalpriley v Writerhawn (20); Leigh v Dewelbury (30); Rochdele v Hull Kingaton Rovers (30); Swinton v Weisefield WHITE ROSE CHAMPIONSHIP: Saley

WHITE RUSE: CHAMPIONSHIP: Lancashire Lynx v Oldham (30) for Preston Greenhoppers RUFC); Worlsington v Berrow (30). Speedway PREMIER LEAGUE CLIP: Glaegow v Stoke (630); Newcante v Sheffield (630); Newport v fale of Wight (230). Other sports

TABLE TENNIS: Grand Prix finels (Bath).

TODAY'S NUMBER

Spur, Jürgen Klinsmann, elled striker is expected to recover from his bruised part in Germany's World Cup warm-up match against Colombia in

The case for opening with Atherton

By Derek Pringle Cricket Correspondent

AT LAST, after the confusion and dithering of the Texaco matches, the real plotting begins. Somewhere within the confines of Lord's this evening, David Graveney and his selectors, including the new Test captain Alec the team's foundations, and not cupying whichever of the two re-Stewart, will sit down and pick just its brickwork, are at risk. England's team for the first Test at Edghaston oext Thursday.

It will, in all likelihood, not be a protracted meeting, as all but three places really pick themselves. But it will be an important one, especially against a tenacious and combative side like South Africa, whose own attentioo to detail has helped them deliver success to the

three places from the team that toured the Caribbean a few months ago, would probably suggest a sign of strength. Norbeing an all-rounder at No 7 -

Finding a partner for Michael Atherton, oow seembest, is perhaps the most ironic of the decisions the panel will have to make. Two months ago in the West Indies, despite Athertoo's poor form, the choice was an easy one.

Uoencumbered by either land A during the winter. captaincy or the keeper's gloves, Alec Stewart, until Philo Wal-

To the layman, filling just lace and Clayton Lambert stole a surprise selection for the one-more compact of the left-han-discussions, but this is likely to opener of the series. Since then, Stewart's role has burgeoned to incorporate both of the above, mally, this would be true, but as while forsaking the one for two of the positions are open- which he has a proven Test ing bat and bowler - the other record. He will now bat at three or four, with Nasser Hussain ocmains vacant.

Of the main candidates to face the new ball only two, ingly back on route to his cussed Nick Knight and Mark Butcher, have already played Test cricket. The others, Darren Maddy and Steve James, heavy scorers in last seasoo's Championship, however, both toured Kenya and Sri Lanka with Eng-

> They all have a case, though the groundswell behind Maddy,

favourite, with the left-handers Butcher and Knight running him a close second. Now 30. James is probably just the wrong side of the watershed to begin a Test career.

A hard worker, Maddy scored heavily on that A tour, managed and coached by Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting respectively. Less natural than the others, Maddy is technically sound, something the dashing Knight has problems with his back foot has a tendency to go back but not across.

Indeed, only the prospect of blooding a newcomer upoo what is normally a result pitch. will cause concern for the pan-

some of his thunder, was the dayers, perhaps makes him ders, may well find himself concern his merits as one-day back at the head of the order.

Filling the all-rounder's role has been a perennial problem since the departure of a certain you know who. At Edgbaston, the onus will be on seam, which provides a straight choice between Mark Ealham, the Hol- White. lioakes, Dominic Cork and Craig White.

Hollioake junior would be the choice of the bold, but England's selectors, like their charges, are rarely bold until a to his bustling best. deficit accrues. Likewise, they may feel the choice of Cork, whose rehabilitation, after two

tainly take up a portion of the

captain rather than his suitability to be England's pivot. However, an announcement, is not expected until later in the summer, by which time Ealham may have cemented the place he will surely be given in front of

Finally, providing Angus Fraser is happy bowling at first chaoge, the selectors have to pair a new ball bowler with Darren Gough, now thankfully back Before shin splints reduced

him to one day's cricket in the last fortnight, Gough's most years of injury and domestic likely partner would have the problems, is not yet complete. man he shares the new ball with Hollicake senior will cer- for Yorkshire, Chris Silverwood. Now the contest looks to

be between Dean Headley, Andy Caddick and the re-mstated Ed Giddins, taking wickets for his new county Warwickshire. Under David Graveney's

chairmanship, all players have been given a clean slate, and Giddin's 18-month ban, after testing positive for cocaine, will not be held against him. Nevertheless, Headley, who had an erratic tour of the Caribbean, will probably prevail, something not likely to be extended to Andy Caddick, the most disappointing of Eng-

land's bowlers on tour. Only one spinner will be included, though another will be drafted in should the pitch look as if it will respond to spin (unlikely). When Athertoo was

spinner of choice, a position he is almost certain to relinquish to the off-spinner Robert Croft, whose drift clearly troubled the South Africans during the one-

Ian Salisbury, having spent a winter in Sydney with Shane Warne's spin doctors, is another getting some good press. But while it is true that South Africa struggle against high quality wrist spin, Salisbury is no Warne. Io other words, until the selectors have irrefutable proof of his newly acquired miserlioess, they are unlikely to pit him against a side who begrudge their opponents every single

Cottey takes up task to steady Glamorgan ship

By David Llewellyn at Lord's

Middlesex v Glamorgan

IT must have been very frustrating for the champions, par- works, donned whites, pads ticularly when they saw the and protective gear and piled pitch - a batsman-friendly strip Cup quarter-final tie - and keeper Adrian Shaw. their feelings could only have toss, invited Glamorgan to bat. batted io every positioo except

up the runs the way he used. Inwhich had already seeo a cou- stead, reality closed in and ple of days' use in Middlesex's Steve James was accompanied ill-fated Benson and Hedges to the middle by the wicket- a double bundred last week, The former Neath rugby been heighteoed when Mark centre is nothing if not versatile, Ramprakash, having woo the so far this seasoo Shaw has

Franks' response spares blushes

By Jon Culley at Trent Bridge

HAVING surprised even themselves, one suspects, by defeat- caught at first slip and bowled ing Warwickshire at Edghaston, Noel Gie off an inside edge. Nottinghamshire looked a poor Afzaal took 26 overs to make 25, side again here yesterday, when Gie 29 for his 20. He also only a career-best 66 from the 19-year-old all-rounder Paul Franks spared them deeper hlushes. Indeed, the reality is that Durham let them off the hook during 90 sloppy minutes after lunch, having earlier reduced them to 85 for 5. Their last five wickets fell for 32.

They could have done with Jason Gallian - due back next week - and Paul Johnson, ruled out by a shoulder injury that failed to respood to a cortisone injection on Thursday, and done without losing the toss after leaving plenty of grass on the pitch. But even after taking mitigating circumstances into account theirs was a paltry effort.

Tim Robinson, restored to the top of the order after Paul Pollard was dropped, perished in the second over and everyone that followed seemed shackled by failing confidence against an attack in which Melvyn Betts again figured prominently. The whippy 23year-old began to look a good bowler last season, when he finished with 43 Championship wickets. Yeslerday's five

brought his tally so far this

Betts eoded the two most by any of the specialist hatsmeo claimed the wicket of Franks, caught behind flicking down the leg side, but only after the England under-19 player had profited from some wayward bowling in the early afternoon.

No one fared worse during this period than Steve Harmison, whose line gave wicketkeeper Martin Speight, a testing time. This is a learning season for the 19-year-old but having takeo 20 wickets so far he clearly knows a thing or two aiready.

By the time Betts removed Franks, who hit 11 fours and faced 87 balls after reaching his 50 in just 47, he had seeo off Nottinghamshire's young wicketkeeper, Chris Read, whose Championship dehut innings lasted just three balls, and the leg-spinner, Paul Strang. The home side were soon finished. owing a almost a quarter of their total to the extras column.

Franks, who opened the bowling at a lively clip, soon removed Jon Lewis, but Durham made a decent fist of their reply until Michael Gough and Nick Speak were each caught at second slip in quick succession.

At that point they must No 6 and No 11 in all cricket, have wished that their former hut if he is looking to establish himself as an opener, he probopener Hugh Morris could have slipped out of the nearby ably still has some way to go to England and Wales Cricket fill Morris's considerable shoes. Board offices, where he now He lasted two balls. The second one, from James Hewitt, had him leg-before.

Runs did not exactly come in a rush, hut Shaw certainly missed out, James, who scored appeared to be well on the way to another three-figure innings. He had been quietly motoring along for more than two and three-quarter patient hours, during which time he had helped himself to a dozen boundaries, when he allowed himself one moment of careless driving and was snapped up at backward point for 79. He had at least shared in a

century stand for the second wicket with Adrian Dale, that partnership being terminated shortly before lunch. James destubborn attempts at resistance parted about half an bour after By Derek Pringle the interval and his captain wheo he had Usman Afzaal Matthew Maynard, back after a month on the sidelines, did not last much longer, an injudicious hook at the 50th ball of his innings resulting in a catch at long leg and a wicket for Angus Suddenly no one on the

Glamorgan side looked as if

they could stick around. Mor-

ris must have been spinniog oo his office chair at the profligacy of it all. Thankfully, Michael Powell (43), carefully shepherded by Tony Cottey, did what his elders and betters should have done and got his head down. He and Cottey had put on 86 for the fifth wicket wheo Powell weor. Cottey. though, stayed, reaching his fifty after almost three hours of application. He at least demonstrated that the spirit of Morris has not completely disappeared. Stephen Fleming, the New Zealand captain, scored his second Test century to put his learn in command at 260 for 3 in their second innings on the third day of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo. Fleming was unheaten at 106 at the close, with Craig McMillan on 64 and his side 280 ahead after the hosts' first innings finished

285 all out in the first session

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - First Innings



'Captain Chaos' claims century

Gloucestershire v South Africa

FAMOUS for their thoroughoess, South Africa set about preparing for England, both on and off the field. But if a century by the acting-captain Gary Kirsten kept the viewing public oo semi-alert in their seats, Hansie Cronje, taking a rare game off, settled back to watch videos of the England team.

Kirsteo's botting is clearly a lot better than his navigating. Due to practice in Bristol the day before this match, Kirsten,

Allan Donald instead, Despite and with Mike Smith not swing- Rhodes, Brian McMillan and Klusener threw his hat ioto the 10-years experience of the ing the ball, there was little to ruf- Lance Klusener, will play in the ring with an unbeaten 33 as he county circuit with Warwick- fic feathers, let alone remove Test next week. At the outset of and Nantie Hayward added 72 their way and were late.

Mishaps apparently befall Kirsten regularly, and he is nicknamed "Captain Choos" by his team-mates, the moniker apparently being coincd after his first Test in charge (the one against Pakistan that was delayed after two of their players were allegedly mugged in a brothel).

But if that proved hectic, Kirsten looked far more serene yesterday than he did during the one-day series, where he made 23 runs in three matches. Mind

them from the tourists caps, until the off-spinner Martin Ball weighed in with three wickets.

Yet while Kirsten went about compiling the 24th first-class. century of his career, the first by a South African on this ground since 1907, Gloucestershire had their successes. Coming oo first change, the skipper Mark Alleyne removed both Gerhardus Liebenherg and Jacques Kallis, both batsmen edging behind.

With Kirsten coming into runs, the only other dilemma unsure of the route, relied on you, with Courtney Walsh absent, was which two from Jonty Ball 10 square leg. Later, armchair selector.

the tour it looked like being a hattle between Rhodes and McMillan, with Klusener a certainty as first change bowler. Now, following a pounding in

the one-dayers, Klusener's place is not so definite. If runs count for anything these days, Rhodes after a slick 59 is leading the race. Coming in at No 5, he drove and booked McMillan never matched in a scratchy knock that had lasted 42 mioutes and produced just three runs before he mis-pulled

for the eighth wicket. As captaio, Cronje, ao earnest sort of fellow, would oo

doubt have been satisfied with proceedings oo the field, With both Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock also resting, his side were efficient without being awesome, that is their way.

Should England want to confuse their methodical prepawith certainty, something rations, then the first step is to pick 11 players who have never appeared on telly. In an age of satellite TV that would be a challenge for the most dedicated

Batsmen lack application on 'interesting' pitch

By Mike Carey at Chesterfield

Derbyshire v Leicestershire

THEY are celebrating 100 years of cricket here at the picturesque Queen's Park Ground. Among the anecdotes about Cliff Gladwin, Les Jackson and company at last night's banquet. everyone would have agreed that this is invariably an interesting pitch to bowl on first thing. Darren Maddy now knows

that to be true. Needing to play an innings to rubber-stamp his selection for next week's first Test, the Leicestershire opener met a good ball from Phillip De-Freitas which bounced and left him to have him caught at slip.

Though it all happened under the scrutiny of the Eogland coach, David Lloyd, Maddy surely oeed not be unduly pessimistic; even in a stay of only 10 overs there was ample evidence of his composure and immaculate technique.

Dominic Cork, whose return to form and fitness Lloyd would have been monitoring, but nothing more, had a better day. Though struggling early on, he found some rhythm later and his five-wicket haul was his first in

the championship since 1995. His aggressive, wholehearted approach typified all Derbyshire's bowling in conditions where the old ball still bounced and moved around. Even so, Leicestershire will ruc the lack of application that cost them their last seven wickets for the wicketkeeper off DeFreitas only 74 runs.

All seemed serene when they lunched at 131 for 2. The lefthanded Iain Sutcliffe demonstrated some of his qualities, especially his strength off his legs; a hundred seemed there for the taking when, gratifyingly, he walked for what must have been

a very thin edge off Paul Aldred. After that, only Aftab Habib got established or seemed to want to, and he survived a difficult one-handed chance to

at 27. He was left high and dry with an unbeaten 39 after Cork. helped by three leg-before decisions, took 5 for 32 in 16 overs.

The Derbyshire openers, Michael Slater and Adrian Rollins, found themselves exploring various edges against the new ball. The ball passed the outside edge more than once before Rollins dollied the ball up towards mid-wicket where Matthew Brimson held a spectacular, one-handed catch.

Scoreboard

Britannic Assurance **County Championship** First day of four, includes Sunday play;

Derbyshire v Leicestershire CHESTERHELD: Derbyshire (40ts), with nine first-innings wickets standing, are 227 runs behind Leicesterire (1).

LEICESTERSHIRE - First Innings J Sutcliffe c Krikken b Aldred82 R F Smith fow b Cork *P V Simmons tow b Co A Habib not out †P A Nixon tow b Cork Lewis c Aldred b Cork . M T Brimson b DeFreitzs Extras (Ib7, w2, nb24) Total (82.1 overs) 246 Fall: 1-34, 2-69, 3-156, 4-172, 5-174, 6-229, 7-235, 8-235, 9-240 Bowling: Cork 28-7-72-5; DeFreitas 251-3-81-3; Akired 17-4-42-1; Dean 12-1-44-1.

if J Stater not outb Ormond

To bet: K J Bernett, M E Cassar, *D G Cork, P A J DeFreites, †K M Krikken, M R May, P Aldred, K J Doan. es: J W Holder and M J Harris.

Middlesex v Glamorgan LORO'S: Glamorgan (2pts) have

Middlenex won toss GLAMORGAN - First Innings S P James c Shah b Hewitt A O Shaw tow b Hewitt M J Powel c Brown

R O S Croft not out A Cosker, S L Watters

MIDDLESED: J.L. Langer, R. A. Kettle-borough, *M. R. Ramprakash, M. W. Gat-ting, O. A. Shah, O.C. Nash, †K. R. Brown, I.N. Blanchett, J. P. Hewitt, A. R. C. Fras-Umpires: V A Holder and G I Burgess.

Nottinghamshire v Durham TRENT SRIDGE: Durham (4pts), with nine first-innings wickers standing, are 166 nats behind Nottinghamshire (1).

Alzaal c Collingwood b Betts F Archer b Foster C M Tobey low b Foster
P J Franks c Speight b Betts
C M W Read low b Betts
P A Strang c and b Betts
M M Resear nee cut M N Bowen not out A R Oram c Spegift b Wood 1
Extras (b9, b3, w20, nb14) 46
Total (68.3 overs) 211
Fall: 1-8, 2-24, 3-64, 4-68, 5-85, 6-179, 7-179, 8-199, 9-206 Bowling: Betts 21-7-59-5; Wood 163-5-50-2; Harmison 18-5-57-1; Foster 9-

vesterday. .

DURHAM - First Innings JJB Lewis law b Franks . M A Gough not out23 N J Speak not out13 Extras (b2 w2) ... ford (for 1, 21.3 overs). Tell: 1-23
To bet: "O C Boon, P D Collingwood, tM P Speight, M J Foster, N C Philips, M M Betts, J Wood, S J Harmison

tres: J H Hampshire and P Wiley. Surrey v Kent THE OVAL: Somey (2pts) have scored 297 for 6 against Kent (3). Surrey won toss SURREY - First Innings M A Butcher c Marsh b Hooper A J Stewart c Hooper b Patel G P Thorpe c Patel b Hooper

"A J Hoffoake b Hooper ... J N Batty c Mersh b Hooper ... bury not out ... Saglain Mushtac low b Headley A J Tudor not out Extras (b7, b9). Total (for 8, 102.5 overs) 297 Fall: 1-142, 2-142, 3-193, 4-193, 5-205, 6-212, 7-294, 8-296 To bat: M P Eicknell KENT: DP Fulton: RWT Key, TR Ward

C L Hooper, A P Wells, M A Selhant, M V Fleming, *15 A Marsh, M M Patel, M J McCague, O W Headley. Umpires: 8 Dudieston and R Palmer. Worcestershire v Sussex WORCESTER: Worcestershire (3pts) have socred 321 for 6 against Sus-

Wordestershire won toss WORCESTERSHIRE - First Innings WORCESTERSHIRE - Para Imange
W P C Weston c Adams b Lewry ... 14
V S Solaria c Humphries b Kirdey .25
G A Hick c Adams b Robreson 104
G R Haynes c Adams b Lewry 20
'T M Moody c Adams b Kirtley ... 48 D A Leatherdate c A A Khen b Bevan

tS J Phodes not out Fell: 1-32, 2-73, 3-134, 4-224, 5-256, 6-To bet: R K längworth, P J Newport, A SUSSEX: W.G. Khan, C.J. Adems, M.T. E. Peirce, *M.G. Bevan, J. R. Carpenter, K. Newell, †S. Humphries, A.A. Khan, R. J. Kirtley, J.O. Lewry, M.A. Robinson, Umpires: A A Jones and G Sharp.

Vodaphone Challenge First day of lour; includes Sunday play;

Gloucestershire v SA BRISTOL: South Africa have scored 296 for 7 squinst Gloucestershire. South Africa won loss

J N Phodes st Williams b Ball .. B M McMillan c Hancock b Ball TM V Boucher & Macmillan Klusener not out .

To bet: PR Adams, M Nini. GLOUCESTERSHIRE: THIC Hancock, G I Macmitan, O R Hewson, "M W Al-leyna, M G N Windows, R J Cuntifia, M C J Ball, J Lewis, †R C J Williams, J M M Averis, A M Smath Umpires: K J Lyons and N T Plevs

Other match First day of three; 11,30 today University Oxford Yorkshire

scored 253 for 7 against Yo Oxford University won toss OXFORO UNIVERSITY J A M Molins c Sidebottom

THE PARKS: Oxford University have

W Byrne b Harritton . O J Ende not out 1J P 6 Barnes not out Extras (67, nb4)

Total (for 7, 91.4 overs) _____253 Feff: 1-37, 2-49, 3-69, 4-66, 5-116, 8-195, To bet: O P Mather, S H Khan. YORKSHIRE: A McGrath, M P Vaughan, **O Byes, M J Wood, C White, B Parker, **O Byes, M J Wood, C White, B Parker, **IC A Chapman, G M Hamilton, R J Side-bottom M J Hoggard, R D Stemp. Umplices: N G Cowley and R A White.

Sri Lanka v New Zealand. COLOMBO: New Zealand, with seven

New Zealand won toss NEW ZEALAND - First Innings 305 (S P Fleming 78, A C Parcre 67; M Mura-litheran 5-90). SRI LANKA - First lonings (Overnight: 251 for 7)

G P Wickramasinghe low Vettori27 C N BandaretReke run out20 xtres (108 mb4) 285
Pall (cont): 8-284 9-284 10-285
Bowling: Doull 12-2-43-0 (nb1): Caims
15-0-59-3 (nb2): Harris 7-1-27-0 (nb1):
Vettori 24-7-56-3; Wiseman 20-4-61-2;
McVillan 12-4-31-1.

NEW ZEALAND - Second Inning B A Young low Bandaratiloke M J Home c Ranatunga b Muraktherer

"S P Fleming not out...... N J Astie c Katuwitharane C D McMillan not out Extras (b), ID1, rib8)... FMI: 1-11, 2-68, 3-180

Tio bast: TAC Parora, C L Cairra, C Z Harris, D L Ventori, P J Wiseman, S B Doull. Bowling: Wickermasinghe 7-0-21-0; Bandaratilele 21-6-46-1; P A de Silva 2-0-14-0; Muratitheran 22-5-76-1 (nb6); Bandara 8-0-38-0 (nb2); Kalpage 14-4-38-0; Jayasuriya 5-0-25-1 Umpires: K T Francis (Sn Lanka) and R E Koertzen (SA).

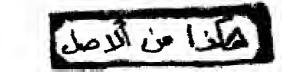
Tomorrow's fixtures **AXA League** (One day; 20) ILFORD: Essex v Northamptonshire. TAUNTON: Somerset v Warwickshire.

Minor Counties Championship (Two days; 110) READING CC: Berkshire v Wales. ASKHAM: Cumberland v Hertford-KINGTON: Herefordshire v Dorset.

BOURNE: Lincolnshire v Stattordshire. JESMOND: Northumberland v Buck-TELFORO (St Georges): Shropshire

MCC Trophy One day: 11.0 BRISTOL UNIVERSITY: Giorgeste CANTERBURY: Kert v Suspex: BEDFORD TOWN CC: Bedfordshire v CORSHAM CC: Withhire v Wordester

OENBY CC: Derbyshire v Cheshire. RGS COLCHESTER: Essex v Cam-LAKENHAM: Noriok v Northamotor-



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Mooth S-shaped

Woodward's red face

Rugby Union

By Andrew Baldock

THE England coach, Clive Woodward, introduced his maligned touring team to Australia yesterday and admitted he was embarrassed by it.

As young captain Matt Dawson called for some respect for the 37-man squad containing 20 uncapped players, Woodward said he was as upset as the Aus-Iralian authorities about the withdrawal of many top names.

Dick McGruther and John O'Neill, both leading figures in the game Down Under, have continually criticised the Rugby Football Union for allowing players to withdraw from the lour, despite being fit enough to play for their club sides.

I'm as wild as he {O'Neill} is," said Woodward, whose side face the Wallabies in Brisbane nest Saturday. "We've learnt a massive lesson out of this. I can't speak on behalf of the RFU, but I'm pretty embarrassed about

the situation. As the national Zealand and South Africa - their four new caps, begin serious coach you would like to think that for a Test match you would be picking players without worrying about major problems

with the game in England. "This is, I like to think, a culmination of circumstances and a one-off. I don't think it will

happen again."

Dawson, who inherited the captaincy from the most notable absentee, Lawrence Dallaglin, was upheat about his squad. "The only thing they lack is experience and there's only one way to get that," he said.

The absence of players of the calibre of Dallaglio, Martin Johnson, Neil Back, Jeremy Guscott, Kyran Bracken and Mike Catt is reflected by advance ticket sales, currently struggling to reach 20,000 for the Test in Suncorp Stadium.

Woodward, while enthusing about his rookie squad, gave vent to feelings of obvious frustration that England will be taking on three heavyweights of world rugby - Australia, New

with nowhere near a fullstrength side.

"I wish players were con-tracted to the RFU, rather than their clubs," Woodward said, as England completed a gym session following a 22-hour flight from London. "There are guys back home who are genuinely worn out, given last summer's Lions tour, then a long season of club rugby and injuries just got worse and worse.

Next season, I will certainly be pushing behind the scenes for players to play the right number of games. If they don't, then they won't be in the England party. Whether Woodward can

persuade the clubs to rest their prize assets at crucial times for the national cause will remain a contentious issue, but with England's World Cup campaign just 17 months away from kickoff, he clearly intends to start flexing the muscles his highprofile post can warrant.

The Test team, complete with

preparations today, and Woodard promises that no effort will be spared: "We've got a week to get it together," he said. "We are underdogs, but I wouldn't have come here if I didn't think we could win the Test."

Dawson, the Northampton and Lions scrum-half, presenting un articulate, confident image during his first press conference on tour, added:

trip for a lot of people. I know that the 16 uncapped players out here want to gain Test bonours.
"We will play in an unleashed manner and I believe we can cause Australia problems. There

and power up front." Dion O'Cuinneagain, the South African-born Sale No 8, will win his first Ireland cap at blindside flanker in the opening tour game against Boland in Cape Riwn today. Left wing Dennis Hickie has recovered from a stomach bug and Ireland



will field a near full strength side. England coach Clive Woodward (right) and captain Matt Dawson face the press in Brisbane yesterday Photograph: Reuten

The thrills and spills of the right cast

A FEW Saturdays ago I went to Syon Park in Brentford. It was a very hot day, with sedges skittering across the surface of the lake and causing a commotion, like bored teenagers in a shopping mall and chironomid buzzers and alder-flies flying in and out of the sun. The lake at SP is ribbon shaped, so looks very like a river - it is an extremely pretty, if expensive, place to fish (an evening ticket with a two fish bag, is £18).

1.00

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2.5

1.5

....

When I started fishing a couple of years ago, my overhead casting was surprisingly good. Then I learn to roll cast and single and double Spey cast, which is prettysalmon nsning. Although the roll casting and Spey casting are still good, the overhead casting had been causing me problems for some months now - the line wasn't going down straight but rather in a great linguini-type arrangement. It was like the more I learned about it the worse I got - and good casting is all about being relaxed. So after five minutes of bad casting. I decided to give up fishing altogether. I packed up my rod and lay on one of the henches that are scattered along the bank and thought of what I would do if I didn't fish and what new use I could put my fishing vest to.

the Albury Estate (managers of Syon Park fishery) newsletter. It told me that you can tell if a fish is dead or not by his eyes. This is not as obvious as you may think because sometimes having been bashed about the head, the fish is rather still, but not yet dead. But if the eyes look down, the fish is still alive, if they are flat, i.e. looking straight out, then it is dead. I read on and discovered · that the beaviest rainbow caught last year at Syon Park. weighed 187bs. I called Pete who was further up the bank, on his mobile. "Put on a Cats Whisker or Damsel nymph," I advised -- as lots of folk seemed to have caught something on that. Pete was not that interested, having just netted a two-and-a-half pounder, caught with a Bloodworm, What did I care.

I was no longer a fisherman. But the sun was shining, the sedges were still creating chaos and the birds were chatting. Out of the corner of my sulky eye I saw a magnificent tront rise to just below the surface, turn, and dive. I walked slowly across the cute made of knotted mesh or bridge that strides the lake and moved to right near the and to keep more than one fish entrance of the fishery. in a keepnet at any one time. "Look," said Pete, "you're just not waiting long enough on your back cast. And you've had the wind against you could be prosecuted and you. Try again." So I tried, and tried and suddenly it all came together in one glorious snappy, waited just long their new knotless nets if you enough, swooshy S-shaped



FISHING ANNALISA BARBIERI

presentation. I changed my Olive Damsel nymph with its swanky let me tell you and es- hulgy eyes for a Goldhead sential for most types of Pheasani Tail nymph and water when the line tightened. It was a fish, and despite what everyone says in these circumstances, he really was not small. Unfortunately, I got over excited and made the classic and very stupid mistake of not giving the fish any slack at all, and the line broke.

I cast again immediately. That fish was mine. Where the line entered the water it made a slight curl which made a good sight marker. The curl straightened out, towards the depths of the lake, yet I wasn't touching the line. In the belly of the lake. a rainbow was tasting my I read 'The Windknot' fly, I struck and sure enough another fish was on. He was a respectable size (the average is two and a half pounds at Syon), two pounds, hnt he fought like a warrior fish and the playing in was very enjoyable. By the time he was netted, I was shaking all over.

Who needs drugs? By this time the sun looked like a giant orange Alka Seltzer that had just started to fizz, and dusk was upon us. The wind changed. again so I swopped banks and moments later the line jerked once more and I went to strike. But although I was drawing in line and there was obviously something there, it wasn'l connecting. Suddenly a baby perch landed at my feel, the size 12 hook nearly bigger than he. I saw him safely back into the water.

The day at Syon Park ended with me catching no more fish. Pete (who had caught two) had to drag me off the bank at 9.30pm. I can't wait to go again.

A new by-law came into effect on I April: It is now illegal to use keepnets and landing nets meshes of metallic material. The first time you could get off with a caution from the baliff but it is entirely possible that fined so change those nets! Orvis (0171 494 2660) are offering 25 per cent off any of bring in your old one.

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE DON'T LIKE.



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone:

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

That's where The Samaritans can be useful. We're more discreet than your best mate. we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable. and extremely experienced:

Our national number is 0345 90 90 90, and you can e-mail us on jo@samaritans.org or visit our homepage at www.samaritans.org. We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us - any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the

Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

> The Samaritans We'll go through it with you

Dark days and humble pie in Brazil



In the first of a series looking back at England's performances in the World Cup finals, Ken Jones talked to Eddie Baily about the year that shattered England's assumptions of superiority

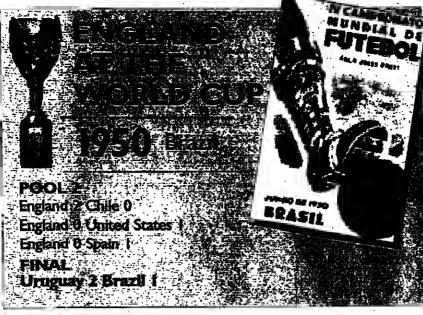
DDIE BAILY beard of added. "There we were going off his selection for the 1950 World Cup in Brazil when touring Switzerland with Tottenham Hotspur. So home for intense preparation? "You must be bloody joking." Baily

Along with goalkeeper Ted Ditchburn, Alf Ramsey and Bill Nicholson, one of four Spurs players in England's squad, Baily was told to report daily for training at the Dulwich Hamlet football ground in south-east London. "Not many footballers owned cars in those days," he said, "but Ted had this old American job, a Cadillac I think it was, and he drove us over there every morning."

Inside left in a Tottenham team that had woo the championship of the Second Division by 12 points, and would win the championship itself the following season, Baily was about to take part in an eveot that no British player had experienced,

It was the first time a British team had entered the World Cup, all four of the associations having returned to football's world governing body, Fifa, in 1946 after an absence of nearly 20 years. The British Championship was designated a qualifying group but childishly Scotland chose not to compete after a narrow loss to England at Hampden Park left them in second place, even turning down a subsequent invitation when several countries withdrew.

So England travelled alone. The party that left London in early June included the usual blazered officials but, pathetically, no



in football and to be going off on this great adventure. to a strange country about which we knew very little and there It began with a 31-hour propellered flight to Rio that inwasn't anyone we could turn to

if we were sick or injured. Backcluded refuelling stops at Lisbon, Dakar and Recife. "On ward wasn't the word for it." and on until we were all knack-Only a grudging last-minute ered," Baily added. "Alf (Ramdecision by the selectors added sey) had been to Brazil as a England's greatest footballer, Stanley Matthews, to the squad, Southampton player but be after he had been sent to Canahadn't seeo a lot of the country. We didn't know what peoda with an FA touring party. ple in South America looked Most damaging, though, was like, whether they were small or the toss of Neil Franklin. An au-

tomatic choice for five years, the tall or of a different colour." gifted Stoke City centre-half The England party were talented enough to be rated favourites alongside Brazil hut, absurdly, their first-ever manager, Walter Winterbottom, was subordinate to a panel of selectors who had no playing experience. Walter had very little chance of putting out the team he wanted,"

> A vast new stadium, Maracana, was still under construction when the party arrived. "Cranes everywhere," Baily remembers along with the oovelty of reaching the pitch from an underground tunnel and oxygen in the dressing-rooms. From their hotel windows oo Copacabana beach the England players looked out on a different world.

Despite the problems that

Baily said. "It was ridiculous."

beset Winterbottom, goals by Cup, but it concealed a sensa-Stan Mortensen and Wilf Mantional defectioo to Colombia, who were then outside Fifa's junion brought England a 2-0 victory in their opening match against Chile. With the United Franklin's move caused many States and Spain the other in England's squad to question teams in their group (the 1950 their working conditions; an in-World Cup was played oo a iquitous retainer and transfer sysleague basis), England could feel tem, a paltry maximum wage and confident of finishing top and minimal bonuses. "We were supqualifying for the final four. posed to think ourselves lucky," England's match against the

USA took them to Belo Horizonte. They found a cramped, rutted and stony pitch. "The worst I'd seen since my schooldays," Baily said. "The dressingroom came as a shock too, bleedin' bare bulbs and, would you believe, rats. Still it was only the Yanks. No problem."

Against the wishes of Winterbottom, who wanted to rest some of his players before playing Spain, the selectors sent out the team that defeated Chile.

Still waiting for his first cap, Baily watched the game sitting alongside Matthews. "It didn't seem to matter very much when the Americans went a goal up, just a matter of time before the roof came in on them, but the further it went the more you sensed a disaster. I've forgotten how many times we should have scored but we didn't."

When the score was flashed to newspaper offices in London it was assumed to be a printing error. Surely 10-1 to England! "We could still qualify but the bottom had dropped out of things," Baily said.

Changes were made, probably by the FA's senior committee member, Arthur Drewry. Matthews made a belated return to the team and Baily was given his first cap. "I didn't do badly," be said, "but Spain beat us 1-0 to put us out."

Looking at the squad he had joined, Baily found it hard to beheve. Matthews, Tom Finney, Mannion, Jackie Milburn, Ramsey, Billy Wright, Mortensen, Bert Williams. England, for so long convinced there was oo more powerful football nation, had been found out.



Photograph: Allsport/Hulton Getty

A game made stagnant by tradition



POOL 4 England 4 Belgium 4 (aet)

QUARTER-FINALS W Germany 2 Yugoslavia 0

England 2 Switzerland 0

WORLD CUP 1954 Switzerland

excuse for missing the World

Baily said, "lucky to have a life

Hungary 4 Brazil 2 SEMI-FINALS W Germany 6 Austria I Hungary 4 Uruguay 2

Austria 7 Switzerland 5

Uruguay 4 England 2 FINAL . W Germany 3 Hungary 2

IT DIDN'T seem fair, some said faccoously, that England should have to face Hungary again just six mooths after a 6-3 thumping at Wembley and just before the 1954 World Cup finals. "They were a bit special," Tom Finney chuckled.

Now Sir Torn, the gifted winger Bill Shankly described as "gizzly strong" missed the Wembley slaughter through injury but he was back for the return in Budapest. Another rout, this time 7-1, the England manager, Walter Winterbottom, in head-holding despair on the touchline. "Didn't do much for our confidence I can tell you,"

Finney, now 76, added. Finney can laugh about o oow but he remembers the gloom in England's dressingroom. He remembers, too, what one of England's selectors (it would be another nine years before Aif Ramsey took away their ludicrous power) said solemnly

Ken Jones talked to Tom Finney about a campaign weakened before it had started by two demoralising defeats to Hungary

before the match - "the Hungarians are very worried about you. Remember they have not seen half our players, and they don't fancy their chances."

Finney caught Ivor Broadis's wink and heard him whisper, "Who does he think he's kidding. If the Hungarians are

worrying, what about us?" Hungary, the 1952 Olympic champions and now World Cup favourites, the team of Ferenc Puskas, Nandor Hidegkuti, Josef Boscik and Sandor Koscis, ripped England apart, giving the

best exhibition of teamwork Finney had ever seen. "We couldn't live with them," he said.

Coming on top of a 1-0 defeat by Yugoslavia in Belgrade that could easily have been much worse, Hungary's superiority triggered off suggestions that England should do the decent thing and withdraw from the finals in Switzerland.

After all, nothing much had come from the 1950 débacle or the loss of England's unbeaten home record. In a traditionbound Football League the thinking remained stagnant. "Put the Hungarians in our game, week in, week out, and, I'm telling you, it would be a differ-

ent story," one manager sneered. Finney had returned from service in Italy during the Second World War to figure brilliantly in a powerful England team. "I think if the first post-war World Cup had come a couple of years sooner we would have been in



Tom Finney shows the style that made him a legend in British football

with a real chance," he said. "Un-stand the criticism. Walter Winfortunately it came a little too late for players like Raich Carter, Tommy Lawton, Frank Swift but we weren't going anywhere." and George Hardwick who would have been outstanding in

If wary of the Football Association's stern secretary, Stanley Rous (later to be knighted and made Fifa president), and mindful of Winterbottom's problems, senior football writers of the day question England's approach to international football.

Finney held them blameless, "The players and the press got on pretty well in those days. much better than they appear to do now, and we could under-

terbottom put in a lot of hard work and knew as much about international football as anyone,

Opportunities for Winterbottom to work with his players were scarce, training get-togethers unheard of. "There was nothing like the amount of internationals we have now," Finney said. England played just once between the defeats by Hungary, a 4-2 victory over Scotland at Hampden Park, "Most of our matches at that time were against the other home countries," Finney added, "so we didn't often come up against different ways of playing."

Fifa kept to a mini-league system for the 1954 finals but could not resist a little tinker-

ing. Two teams in each group

were seeded and would play

only the two non-seeds. England began their programme with a draw against Belgium in Basle. Level 3-3 at the end of ordinary time, they drew 4-4, a result which meant that their goalkeeper Gil Merrick had given away 20 goals in five matches. "It wasn't fair to make Gil cotircly responsible," Finney said, "but people were looking for scapegoats and he was an easy target. We just

didn't defend very well." At least England had showed

Photograph: Allsport/Hulton Getty enough sense to include Stanley Matthews. And for the next match, against Switzerland in Berne, they at last found themselves a centre-half. Although

ures in English football, captain of Wolverhampton Wanderers and the national team, he was only an average wing-half. Syd Owen, the latest to be tried as a replacement for the irreplaceable Franklin, had beeo through such a torrid time that Winterbottom had to find a

centre-half from the men he had

available. Influenced by the

spring that enabled Wright, who

was only 5ft 8in, to outjump

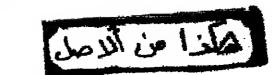
Billy Wright had become estabhe was very good in the air and lished as one of the leading fignot many got the better of him on the ground."

some of our players'

were simply to good for us." Blamed for three of the goals, Merrick's international career was over. For Finney there would be another World

On Monday: Bill Nicholson, an England coach at the 1958 World Cup in Sweden, talks about the competition won by Brazil and illuminated by the incomparable Pele

& 3**3** 3 (



Shales here to an My Kiniat, who was Miles in throughout The parety cases in the 'I think if the first of the Robert F.

post-war World de later of wing back. Cup had come a species all it qualifycouple of years == Spie dominimo sace of club level. September - DE COM NO sooner we would The Rus the ophave been in with a dalm a place in in the section of the real chance. Unfortunately it No his chance to identification which cade. came a little late for

much taller forwards. Winterbottom turned to his captain. "Billy weot on to be one of the best in the position," Finney said. "For such a shortish chap

Defeating Switzerland 2-0. England went forward to meet Uruguay in the quarter-finals. "We played well," Finney said, "but not well enough. Uruguay

AROUND Cup, his third. And another dis-BY appointment. RUPERT

METCALE

Calderwood slap happy for ultimate test

Scotland play the United States today in their last friendly before the World Cup. Phil Shaw talked to one of their key defenders

history is littered with post-match punch-ups between rival players in the tunnel leading from pitch to dressing-room. Colin Calderwood does things differently. He slaps himself about the face, and he does it before a mnich.

The practice is iotended, the Tottenham and Scotland defunder explains, "to get the adrenalin pumping and bring the game into focus". It is easy. however, to imagine how the sight of Calderwood psyching himself up might psych out opposing forwards during the World Cup finals.

A model of zen-like calm away from the sport, the 33year-old Calderwood will re-enact his unusual ritual in the Robert F Kennedy Stadium here today. No matter that the fixture against the United States is a frieodly. It is Scotland's last warm-up for France 98, and his competitive streak is slipping into overdrive.

A week next Wednesday, Craig Brown's team tackle the world champions, Brazil, in the opening game. For that occasion, Calderwood asserts, no self-respecting Scot will need motivatioo: "It's a fantastic match for us. Sampling the atmosphere is going to be incredible, though we're oot going there just to make up the numbers."

As ooe who did not gain his first cap until he was 30, having speot most of his career in the lower divisions with Mansfield and Swindon, Calderwood is particularly appreciative of his ple will back us as underdogs." opportunity: "I doo't pinch mysays. "It took me such a long -, Scots to interpret the new edict time to get to this level that I oo tackles from behind as strict- lights of Manhattao. was ready for it. I wasn't exact- ly as officials at the World Cup ly an overnight success.

Celtic and Rangers fans, it is comes to ball-winning, was en- France. First, though, Caldertypical of Calderwood's res- couraged by the outcome. olute character that he remains loyal to his home-town team, says. "As far as I'm aware, the bling and feel like a slap in the

TOOTBALL'S recent David Ginola and Jurgen Klins- mustn't 'endanger an oppomann, he also insists on keeping the radio on in Spurs' coach

until their score is read out. Field Mill, Mansfield, was where Calderwood began his carecr at 17. That setting is light years removed in scale and style from Giants Stadium, New Jersey. Yet there he was last Satdraw which he regarded as a a problem." useful rehearsal for another South American side.

"They're not as strong as Brazil, but they are comparable in terms of technique and the ground was similar to the Stade

'The new rules are fine as long as refs aren't conned by. forwards taking theatrical dives at the slightest contact'

de France. The pleasing thing was that we were stimulated by it rather than overawed. We should have won.

"Also, there won't be as were Colombians. They made up about 90 per cent of the crowd. The ocutrals may want to see Brazil play their football, but equally I'm sure a lot of peo-

Last week's referee, an ave been ordered to do. In a camp hrimming with Calderwood, no slouch when it oocs. Next Thursday it is off to

Strangaer. To the bafflement of rule states that the challenge face for their hosts.

nent'. That's fine as lung as refs aren't conned by forwards taking theatrical dives at the slightest contact from behind.

"Players and officials are bound to interpret it differently and there'll probably be a rash of red cards. But provided we're not diving in, wrapping legs urday, facing Colombia in a 2-2 around people, it shouldn't be

Calderwood anticipates a sterner test against the Americans. He sees their athleticism as similar to that of Norway, another of Scotland's group opnonents in France, and recalls a chastening 2-1 defeat by the US prior to Euro 96.

Everyone expected us to win, but they were a decent side and they've improved since then. They beat Austria 3-0 away in a friendly, and we know from our qualifying group how difficult that was. They've also beaten Brazil, even if it wasn't their strongest line-up."

The US operate an unusuat 3-6-1 formation. "That can be difficult for defenders," Calderwood admits, "though I can't believe the midfield will be a flat six. There'll be players breaking to support the front man."

That lone striker is likely to be Roy Wegerle, whom he remembers as a clever player from when they were both at many Brazilians there as there Swindon (Wegerle was on loan).

The Scotland squad have takeo Andy Goram's dramatic exit in their stride, the only change Calderwood observed heing the increased media scrutioy. They have trained "pretty hard", but also indulged self about the way it's gone," he American, was asked by the in his twin passions of golf and cards, not to mention the de-

> Tonight they return home to wood is seeking a result to "I thought it went well," he keep Scottish confidence bub-



Colin Calderwood did not win his first cap until he was 30 and appreciates the greater challenges of international football

McKinlay's chance to stake claim

By Phil Shaw In Washington

4.75

•••

X :

FROM Vienna, Austria, to Vienna, Virginia, Scotland's to necessitate a reshuffle in World Cup campaign has al- midfield. Gordon Durie, the most come full circle, yet Craig Brown may still have one last selection surprise for their final pre-World Cup friendly against injury. the United States here today.

Tosh McKinlay, who was set to win his 20th cap in the 90 degree heat of the Robert F Burley, but not Durie." Kennedy Stadium.

The 33-year-old wing back, who appeared in all 10 qualifying fixtures, has played only two full senior games at club level since September - on loan to Stoke City - but now has the opportunity to claim a place in Scotland's line-up against Brazil on 10 June. McKinley owes his chance to

the injury problems which con- a training camp just outside the ished.

tioue to beset the Scotland capital. A more unlikely setting manager, Craig Brown. His in which to prepare for a com-Celtic colleague, Craig Burley, has a calf strain which is likely squad's lone Ranger since the departure of Andy Goram, is also doubtful because of a groin

There's no way we'll gamble on them," Brown said. "Our left out in the cold throughout doctor told me that if the US Celtic's championship season, is was the first game of the World Cup he could guarantee me

Brown's considerations bave been further confused by the blistered fect of another McKinlay, Blackburn's Billy. He is none the less expected to come into the ceotral midfield trio, with Christian Dailly switching to the right flank to accommodate Tosh McKinlay.

An odyssey which began 18 months ago has led the Scots to

petitive fixture against Brazil is difficult to imagine; their hotel is next to a freeway and surrounded by car showrooms and shopping malls.

Despite the various fitness coocerns, Brown is convinced his squad are approaching tournament condition.

"We feel they're peaking at the right time. The key thing is to make sure we peak against Brazil rather than the US.

"Through the timing and the quality of our training, we think we've got it right," the Scotland manager said. "I like to think we've got trained, experienced eyes. You can see when a player is sharp and when he's fatigued. For example, Alex Miller (assistant manager), felt our strikers needed sharpness yesterday and worked with them after the rest had fin-

He anticipates a stiffer test than Colombia provided in last weekeod's 2-2 draw. "The US's results in recent times have nents and players pick up on been excellent, and they are that." clearly playing very well. In fact, they've got better World Cup results than we have of late

top experience in Europe." Brown is well acquainted with the Americans' unorthodox 3-6-1 formation. "It's a very resourceful system which suits their counter-attacking style very well," he said.

and they've also got players with

However, the heat and humidity may be just as important a factor in the way the game unfolds. "Our only concern is that we might have to make earlier substitutions," Brown said. African opponents, not least be-"But that's the reason we're here, for acclimatisatioo. Hopefully, we won't encounter anything hotter when we're in France. We're very thorough in our preparations, whether we're

playing San Marino, Estonia or Brazil. If you start to differenuate, you devalue your oppo-

The Scotland camp have received with interest news of the results involving their opponents at France 98. Norway, noted Brown, are evidently the "form team," but he added; "We only hope they are going to peak too soon."

Meanwhile, Alex Ferguson has phoned Brown from Casablanca to update him on Morocco, Fergusoo warned him that they had outplayed England in the first half. Brown remains confident that he will he fully versed in the style of their cause Morocco will have played twice before meeting the Scots. SCOTLAND (probable, 3-5-2; Laighton (Aberdeen), Caldarwood (Totterham), Hendry (Bleckburn), Boyd (Cellic), Dallly (Derby, 8 McGlatey (Blackburn), Lambert (Celbc), Collins (Monaco), 7 McGlatey (Celbc), Galfacher (Backgurn), Jackson (Celbc)

THE Germany coach, Berti defender Thomas Helmer, who Vogts, wants to see his players step up a level in today's World Cup warm-up match against Colombia after their disap-

pointing 0-0 draw with Finland oo Wednesday night. The team's lacklustre performance, rounding off several days of training in the Finnish capital, was widely criticised in the German press. Vogts said the players could not afford an-

other showing like that. "Colombia are of a different calibre," he said. "I'll be interested to see how far we've progressed, to see how much we cao put our opponents under pressure. I expect a clear improvement from Helsinki."

Vogts also urged fans and reporters not to read too much into the Finland match, saying that although the Germans

has a torn muscle, for today's game in Frankfurt but still hopes Jürgen Klinsmann may recover from a bruised shin to play at least the second half against the South American side.

Vogts takes hard line

Vogts plans to make several changes from Wednesday's team. Olaf Thoo will return to the libero position, taking over from Lothar Matthaus who celebrated his international comeback against the Firms after an absence of more than three years. However, the veteran Bayern Munich player could still find himself in the starting line-up to give more bite in midfield. Milan's Christian Ziege and Borussia Dortmund's Stefan Reuter will return

The Colombians, who drew 2-2 with Scotland last Saturday in their most recent warm-up were poor it was too early in the match, are playing down their huild-up to draw conclusions. chances of beating the three-The coach is deprived of times World Cup winners.

The coach, Manuel La-

to the wing-back positions.

"We haven't made World Cup history," their coach, Hernan Dario Gomez, said. "That's what senarates us from the great teams." The goalkeeper Farid Mondragon also said Colombia would not underestimate the task just because of the Finland result. "It's quite normal that teams don't play at the top level before a World Cup," he said.

Germany and Colombia have met only once before, drawing 1-1 in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy. One member of the German squad in those days, central defender Jürgen Kohler, will win his 100th cap today.

Spain's goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta has a pulled muscle in his left leg and will miss the World Cup warm-up match against Northern Ireland in Santander on Wednesday. But the 36-year-old could recover in time for Spain's first group match of the finals against Nigeria on 13 June in Naotes.

Why Yugoslav champions' owner will not dare to visit Highbury



AROUND WORLD RUPERT **METCALF**

IF Arsenal, Manchester United or Celtic meet the champions of Yugoslavia in next season's European Champions' League, their directors could come face to face with a very unsavoury character in their opponents' boardroom.

Ohilic Belgrade, formed in 1924 and named after a Serbian medieval knight, won their first Yugoslav title this season, surprisingly eclipsing the traditional footballing giants from the capital, Partizan and Red

The man behind the sudden rise of Obilic is Zeljko Razna-

the western world as the ruthless Serbian military commander. Arkan.

Before the Balkan conflict. Arkan lived in western Europe, where he is wanted for armed robbery and other crimes. He also led a football fan club in Belgrade, from which he later recruited his paramilitaries, known as the "Tigers".

Desnite his fearsome reputation, Arkan has not been publicly indicted by the United Nadons tribunal in The Hague. the Netherlands, which is investigating alleged war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

Two years ago, Arkan took tovic - who is better known in struggling Obilic club. By in- companying his club to any

vesting his fortune - which critics say was amassed through war-time smuggling and looting - Arkan has helped huild Ohilic into a top team. Their biggest rivals, Red Star, have alleged that Arkan used blackmail and other illegal methods to secure the title.

Whatever the background to their rise. Ohilic will take their place in the European Cup this summer. "We can face any team and, with God's help, we will become European champions," a boastful Arkan said recently.

Because of the charges he faces in western Europe, it is over the then obscure and unlikely that Arkan will be ac-

away ties in the European Cup. He has, therefore, this week named his wife. Svetlana (also known as the folk singer, Ceca), as his successor as club presideot, apparently so that Ohilic can be represented abroad. At home, in Belgrade, though, it seems that this notorious warlord will still be

pulling the strings.

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THE Mexican media heaped abuse on their national team on Thursday following Wednesday's humiliating 4-1 defeat by the German club side, Vfl. Wolfshurg.

One newspaper even called

for the squad to return home and pull out of the World Cup finals in France to avoid further embarrassment. "Bring them back," blared the headline in Mexico's normally conservative Excelsior newspaper.

"Pathetic," was the judgepromised. ment of another leading daily, Reforma. Mexico led Wolfsburg 1-0 before collapsing under a four-goal barrage from the Germans within the space of six minutes at the end of the first half and the start of the second.

The result, against a side which finished 14th in the German Bundesliga First Division this season, made a mockery of Mexico's fourth-placed ranking in Fifa's world list.

puente, said his players had become over-coofideot after scoring first and had poured forward recklessly, leaving their defence exposed. "This woo't happen at the World Cup," be The defeat to the German

team followed a 5-2 defeat by Norway two weeks ago that was mitigated somewhat by a 6-0 win over Estonia. The team have come under increasing fire following losses to the Argentinian side Boca Juniors. Chile's Under-23 squad and the Chilean club Universidad Catolica this year. The Netherlands, Belgium and South Korea lie in wait in France.



CUP FINALS

BEGIN

Chelsea sign up Casiraghi for £5.4m

Football

By Phil Casey

CHELSEA last night broke their club transfer record with the signing of Pierluigi Casiraghi - and insisted that Mark Hughes still has a future at Stamford

Bridge. The European Cup-Winoers' Cup holders splashed out £5.4m on the Italian international in a four-year deal that reunites him with his former team-mate Gianluca Vialli.

But it was the future of the aware of the situation. former Manchester United tentioo away from the capture of the 29-year-old striker from Lazio, Casiraghi's arrival leaves the Blues spoilt for choice up Mark out of Chelsea." front with the player-manager Vialli, Hughes, Gianfranco Zola and Tore Andre Flo also fighting for a place in the side.

Hughes, ironically named ready been forced to accept that Serie A side Palma.

he cannot command a regular place in the starting 11. But the Chelsea managing director, Colin Hutchinson, was adamant that Hughes is part of Vialli's plans for a serious assault on the Premiership next season.

And he revealed he would be holding talks with the Welsh international at some stage next week in an effort to resolve his future. "Mark Hughes and I had a long conversation in Martinique last week," said Hutchinson. "I talked to him this morning and he is fully

"His situation will be looked striker Hughes that diverted at- at in about a week's time and I would like to stress Mark has ooe year left on his contract. There will be no moves to push

The speculation regarding Hughes' future somewhat overshadowed the arrival of Casiraghi, who Chelsea had been tracking for over a year. He had hy Casiraghi as ooe of his also attracted the interest of favourite players, is the oldest Blackburn, the European Cup of the strikers at 34 and has al- winners, Real Madrid, and the and with the changes that were

Platt on shortlist for Sheffield United job

By Alan Nixon

DAVID PLATT has emerged as a surprise contender for the job of Sheffield United's player-

The Arsenal and England and is on a final shortlist of a handful of candidates.

Platt has made oo secret of his desire to break into man- to the Third Divisioo title and agement and the Gunners will he has impressed the Norwich let him leave for a nominal sum if he gets the job.

talk to United on Wednesday about the vacancy after caretaker Steve Thompson stepped down last week. However, he may have to be persuasive as United would prefer an experienced manager after missing out on promotion in the last two

Thompsoo is also on the shortlist and other contenders Park Rangers manager Stewart spoken to Norwich.

Houston and one-time Old-

ham coach Neil Warnock. Birmingham City skipper Steve Bruce is also on the wanted list, but has not yet been approached for an interview.

Norwich City want Sam Almidfielder will meet United's lardyce to be their new manager board this week for an interview after interviewing 18 candidates for the post.

Allardyce's reputation is high after taking Notts County board in talks. Now Allardyce will he of-

Platt has been invited to fered the job of taking over from Mike Walker, although the deal will oot be dooe until he agrees to the whole management team as Norwich would like Allardyce, previously coach at Preston and Blackpool to have Brian Hamiltoo as his assistant.

Hamilton coached neighbours Ipswich last season during their race for the promotioo play-offs and the former Northinclude the former Queen's ern Ireland manager has also

The former Juventus and Lazio player was delighted to have put pen to paper before jetting off last night on holiday where he will be forced to watch the World Cup on televisioo having been excluded from Cesare Maldini's squad.

There was interest from other clubs but nothing official. This was the offer that pleased me the most and I am very pleased to have it signed and sealed," said Casiraghi. "It was important that Mr Vialli was here and that was one of the reasons I decided to come. I played with Vialli for one year in Juventus and it was a great

"I know him as a player and not a manager, but he is a great player and he has had some great results in his first season as a manager and I think he will be a great manager.

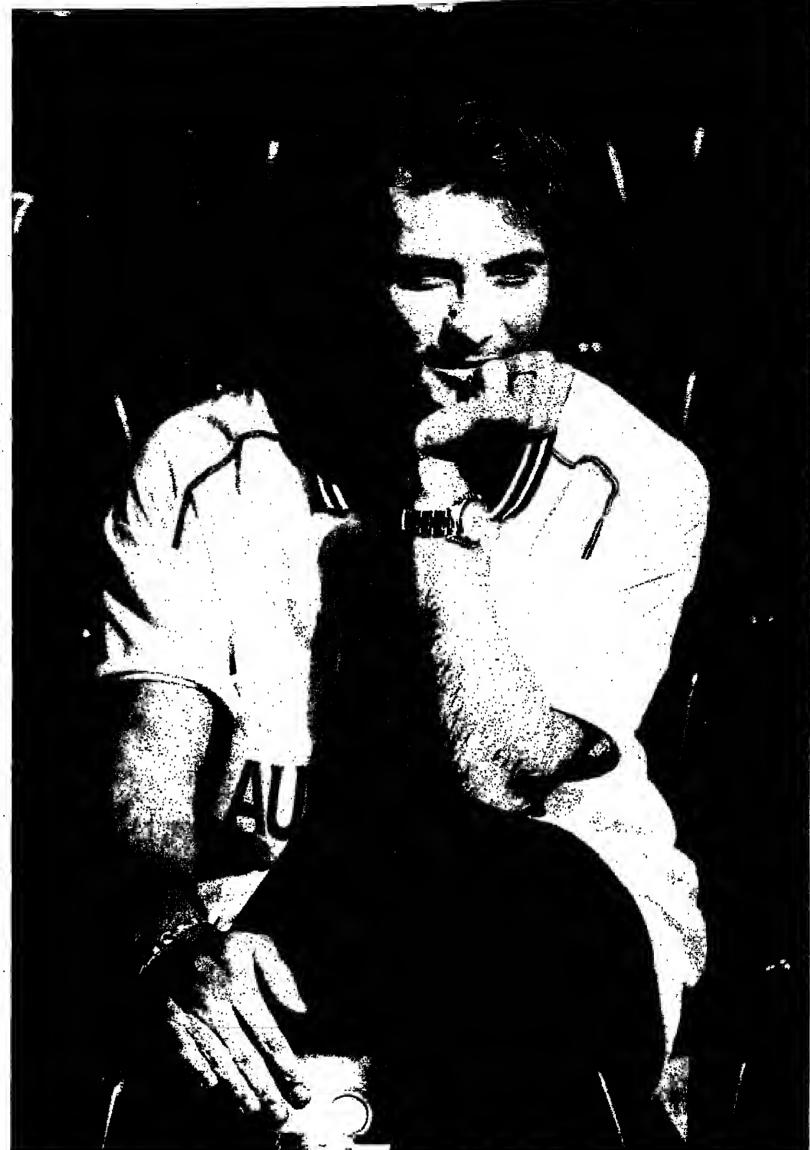
"It will be an objective for oext season for us to put in a strong title challenge. I had been at Lazio for the last five years going on it was time to have a change of scenery."

Hutchinsoo also reiterated that another Italian, the midfielder Roberto Di Matteo, was not for sale at any price despite an approach from the Lazio president, Sergio Cragnotti, while tying up the deal for Casiraghi.

"He broached the subject and he was told very bluntly that Di Matteo is not for sale," said Hutchinson. "He told me every player has his price, what is Di Matteo's? I told him that he is not for sale at any price."

Hutchinson also revealed that there had been severa "tentative approaches" for Flo but they have also been turned down, and also that a possible deal for Marcel Desailly from Milan was still on the cards and that he could be meeting the French midfielder next week.

The transfer saga involving Chelsea and Brian Laudrup from Rangers is still on-going but Chelsea's lawyers have written to the European Commission, who in turn will contact all ioterested parties next week to tell Rangers that Laudrup is entitled to move without compensation and that the Glasgow club could face a fine of up to 10 per cent of the value of the company if they do not comply.



Pierluigi Casiraghi acclimatises to the feel of Stamford Bridge as he signs up for a record fee yesterday

Photograph: Alisport

The same newscore

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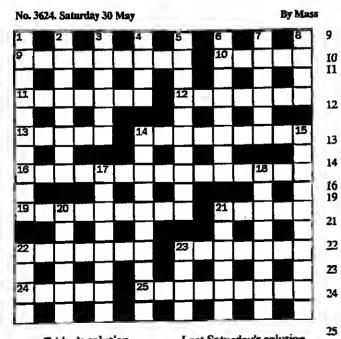
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

ACROSS

Fruit in crate transported to Tyneside (9) End up in orbit (5) Concerned with courses, with English in dedine (7) Capture seen in play, grabbing knight with a

Rook (7) 13 Early deity (Italian) cast in bronze (5) Pink vehicle heading for the country (9) Oval figure? (7,5,3) Trimmer cut round berd on male (9) Serve fruit cake in LA

restaurant (5) Mobilise, like soldiers when reporting (7) Extra cover gets the batter, ultimately (7) Distribution of US aid in part of Middle East

Distant lake isle in open setting (9)

DOWN Unappreciative of runs in

subtle fugal tune (10) What a chiseller! (8) Restrain, restrain writer

Obscure English coin (4) One unearthing facts about Kentish house?

Tonic of brassy piece of music? (5,3)
A form of meat mainly found in Southern Italy?

In speech take off the brogue? (4) Tripe from cow old pals cooked (10) This earment's the latest in ladies' wear? (10)

An example of furniture that's not practical (8) Meal in Chunnel, maybe. including duck (8) 20 Prepare to run in heat

(4,2) 21 Gain from enterprise round East (6) Host provides service (4) Order to march (4)

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Everton move in on Stubbs

The Everton manager, Howard although he has had a hid re- manager, John Gregory, said Kendall, has made an official move to sign Celtic's unsettled centre-back Alan Stubbs.

Kendall has asked the Scottish champions how much they want for Stubbs and been quoted a £3.5m fee. Kendali knows that Stubbs is desperate to join his boyhood team and the club is trying to sell Slaven Bilic, Craig Short or Nick Barmby to fund the deal.

Everton are favourites to sign Stubbs despite only avoiding relegation on goal difference ahead of his old club, Boltoo. Stuhbs is an Everton supporter, as is all his family. He still has a house in Liverpool and it would be the ideal move.

For the past few months Stubbs has made Celtic aware he wants to leave and he stayed on for their championship triumph, but now wants to go. The fact that Everton have come in after several reports proved unfounded in the past will mean he could fulfil his childhood dream of playing for them.

Celtic are holding out for a cash deal and as they have no manager they can not consider swap deals for the defender. However, Stubbs will be hoping that Kendall can raise the funds in the next few weeks as he tries to huy a new look to his team-Kendall is still actively chasing Bolton's Alan Thompson. jected, and Derby County's yesterday. The 26-year-old Aus-Neil Carsley.

Everton have been censured by the Football Associatioo and ordered to pay the costs of the hearing into a pitch invasion during one of their games last season. A disgruntled supporter ran on to the pitch during Everton's 4-1 home defeat against Aston Villa on 24 March, on the same day as similar trouble at Barnsley's match with Liverpool at Oakwell.

Everton were found to be in breach of FA rule 24 which relates to public order inside grounds and the safety management system inside Goodison Park was judged to have failed to meet the necessary criteria. The FA committee took into account the fact that the supporter to hlame has since been banned from the stadium.

The Aston Villa goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich, will be put up for sale before the start of next sea- comes up with the right sort of son unless he agrees a new longterm contract, the Villa

tralian international still has a year left on his curreot agreement with the English Premiership club, but Gregory is anxious to guard against Villa losing out agaio uoder the Bosman ruling as they have just

done with Steve Stauoton.

The Republic of Ireland captain will walk out as a free agent next month after rejecting Villa's £1m a year offer to renew his contract. "I want Bosnich to sign a new four- or time he's 30 I expect him to be the hest goalkeeper in the world." said Gregory.

John Gregory has been given a timely boost by the club's highly-rated central defender Riccardo Scimeca. The former England Uoder-21 international captain has hinted he is keen to sign a new contract at Villa Park providing Gregory

deal. The Challenge Cup. the

TWELVE PAGES OF SPORT BEGIN ON PAGE 17

Scottish First, Second and Third Divisions, has been axed. It is the first indication of the growing financial worries following the breakaway from the Scottish League yesterday of the 10 major clubs to form their own

The Challeoge Cup, first played in 1991, has been without a sponsor since B&Q ended its association but in the past two seasons has been backed financially by the Scottish League itself. But in the changed clifive-year contract because by the mate the league will now use that money in another direction.

Falkirk are the final winners of the cup and the Stranger manager Campbell Money, who steered his side to victorian 1997, said: "It is a disappoint ment for all the clubs that do not have a sponsor and that the competition is finishing?

The family of Wilf Marinion are keeping a vigil at Middlesbrough General Hospital wagere the former Middlesbrough and England player is being treated for suspected pneumonia. A hospital spokesman said yesterday: "Mr Mannion has had a comfortable night and is stable."

Mannion, who celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this month, was a post-war legeod and played in the Great Britain side that beat the rest of Europe 6-1 at Hampden Park in 1947.

لذا من ألاصل

YOUR MONEYER YEAR

Personal finance, motoring and property

Saturday 30 May 1999



When it comes to buying a home, cheap isn't always cheerful

Repossessions hold out the promise of finding a bargain, and many services offer to help you find them. But, as

it may prove a false
saving
Anyone with has been househunting in the past year or so
will be familiar with the

hunting in the past year or so will be fimiliar with the heartache of finding a lovely property only for its price to be way above what is is remotely affordable. At a time when prices are still rising fast, particularly in London and the South-east, getting on the inside track can seem crucial.

One way of cracking the problem of how to find a cheap home is to look out for repossessed properties, where

lenders are trying in theory to dispose of them quickly and may accept a low offer. Supposedly catering to this need are, many services claiming to give homehuyers details of repossessed properties in their own

The Building Societies Repossession List (BSRL) is one of them, the clear suggestion being that this will help you find a bargain. BSRL's own promotional fax describes the information it offers as "a list of the best buys in your area". Subscribers to the BSRL list must pay up to £95 to get three-monthly lists through the post, or up to £225 for an anoual subscription.

But housing market experts warn that the savings on repossessed properties are much smaller than you might imagine, and that even these savings are often outweighed by the amount of work needed on the house you buy.

Ray Boulger, a manager at independent mortgage advisers John Charcol says: "A lot of people think the savings are greater than they are. They don't ap-

preciate that, if the property is particularly cheap, it's probably because it needs a lot spent on it. The people who owned the house before may have gutted it, for example."

Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents, says: "There have, oo doubt, beeo one or two bargains to pick up in the repossessed market, but I think less of that is now going on. Generally speaking, the values of repossessed properties reflect their condition."

Many leoders putting repossessed properties on the
market will insist that the property be advertised in the press
for a further seven days after an
offer has come in. This is another factor that tends to drive
prices back towards their true
market value. These ads are
also one source of the information contained on repos-

session lists (see box).

In the best possible cases,
Mr Boulger says, it may be possible to save up to 15 per cent
on the property's market price.

"But you have to be careful not

to let people think they can get every repossessed property on that basis," he warms. The lists seemed to give brief

The lists generally give brief details of each property, together with details of the relevant estate ageot. But, of course, this information is no good at all unless it is up to date.

Mr Dunsmore-Hardy says:
"My only concern with these lists is how up-to-date and accurate they are, wheo the information may be provided through third parties. I would exercise caution."

Telecom Express, another list provider, was fined £2,500 last year for misleading and overcharging its customers. Regulators found that information people received was oot updated regularly eoough. Information on the Telecom Express service was provided by the Uxbridge-based SNC Telecommunications.

Telecommunications.

Telecom Express offered its Repossessed Property Index via a "faxback" service, which is paid for by the recipient. This charged customers £1.50 a minute for lists that regularly

took more than 15 minutes to come over the machine, implying a charge of £22.50 or more.

Another faxback provider – Megafone Ltd of Morecambe – was fined £300 when regulators found that its own list contained details of properties which had already been sold for as long as two months.

Repossessed properties are also sold through auctions advertised in the local press, or promoted through lists of their own. But Mr Boulger says: "The clieots who have spoken to me have said that when they go to an auction the prices have ended up being quite a hit higher than the guide price, and they're oot particularly good value."

Often the properties sold at auction are what Mr Duo-smore-Hardy calls "the real wrecks" – houses in such poor repair that getting a mortgage on them is all but impossible. These tend to be bought by developers, who then do the necessary work before selling them on at a profit, but are little or no use to private buyers.

Confused borrowers

More than 40 per cent of mortgage borrowers — almost seven million people — currently pay off their loan at the standard variable rate, typically the highest rate on offer from

Most do so because they are confused about the different types of mortgage loans available — including fixed, capped and discounted mortgages, according to a poll by the Mortgage Guild, a marketing group for independent home loan brokers.

About half the public is also put off switching to a cheaper mortgage because it does not want to start a long-term mortgage "all over again". Yet some 48 per cent of those polled would feel angry if they found out that their existing lender is offering better deals to new borrowers than to them.

Direct rescue

The prospect of greater competition in the vehicle rescue market, long disputed mainly by three organisations - Green Flag, AA and RAC - grew this week following the announcement by Direct Line, the telephone insurer, that it plans to launch its own breakdown service for motorists. Direct Line, formed in 1985, has grown spectacularly in the past, I3 years by under-cutting insurers with its own cheap insurance policies. It hopes to do the same in this

Travel bargains

Does travel broaden the mind? Not for some 19th-century explorers, whose written reministences verge on the racist. Yet, as John Windsor explains on page 3, memoirs of their travels to Africa and other places worldwide are rising fast in value. Among those snapping up the worst examples of racist writing are people such as the actress Whoopi Goldberg.

Bradford & Bingley

In an article in this section, dated 15 May 1998, Bradford & Bingley Building Society was said to have instructed its staff not to inform customers of higher interest-paying accounts available to them. We are happy to make clear that this is not the case.

The declaration can be made either verbally or in writing as part of the property's particulars. There is no single form of words used for this declaration. When Halifax prop-

form of words used for this declaration. When Halifax property services is selling houses for its parent bank, however, documents note, "This property is being sold on behalf of Halifax plc".

WHERE DOES THIS

price it will fetch.

INFORMATION COME FROM?

Estate agents will seldom publiclse the fact that a house

on their books is a repossession, for fear of cutting the

Lenders are equally cagey. They keep a central list of re-

possessions, but guard its contents closely. So, where does

the information on questionable repossession lists come

The answer may lie in section 21 of the Estate Agency Act

(1979). This section demands that estate agents selling a

repossessed property for a lender in the same group de-

clare their interest in the sale to potential buyers. For peo-

ple who know what to look for, this is enough to tip them

off that a particular property has been repossessed.

Council of Mortgage Lenders figures show that the number of repossessions in the UK has fallen sharply since its peak of 75,540 in 1991. Last year, the figure stood at 32,770.

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NIC CICUTTI

Health insurance needs a cure

What is it about the insur- surer was that premiums ance industry that makes it so loath to listen to other people? I ask the question following the publication this week of a report by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), the Government's competition watchdog, on the subject of health insurance.

Health insurance covers four main areas: it pays for private care in hospital, for not possible. income replacement when a person becomes ill, a one-off lump sum payment on diagnosis of a range of critical illnesses, plus long-term care for those who can no longer look after themselves.

Two years ago, the OFT published its first report on the industry. In it, the OFT argued that the products on sale were difficult to understand and riddled with exclusions. It argued for "benchmark" products, wherehy consumers could compare like with like.

Moreover, the watchdog pointed out, some types of policies - so-called "moratorium" ones - were potentially dangerous. Moratorium policies involve not having to give details of any previous medical history to the insurer. In return, pre-existing conditions at the time a policy is taken out are not covered for two years afterwards.

The OFT argued that one consequence might be that consumers with pre-existing conditions might be tempted not to seek medical care for them for two years so as not to invalidate their cover.

In any event, the OFT

would be needlessly higher for many people. It therefore suggested that sales of these products

should be discontinued. What was the insurers' response? To the proposal about benchmark products, the Association of British Insurers (ABI), the industry's trade body, said that this was

Strange then that over five years ago, following the urging of independent financial advisers, the insurance industry was able to come up with a standard set of definitions for critical illness policies.

As for moratorium policies: again, no dice. The ABI suggested simply that there should be better documents explaining the effects to customers.

The OFT's report this week acknowledges that its first report in 1996 failed to persuade insurers to shift.

What should be done now? The OFT wants the sale of moratorium policies to be regulated by the new super-watchdog, the Financial Services Authority. It also wants consumers to be given stronger warnings about po-

But the OFT is too tame. This industry has consistently refused to control itself. It is now time for the Government to step in.

Here is an issue for Mrs Liddell, the Treasury minister. Labour, we are told, wants us to take responsibility for our own lives, which means more private insursaid, one side-effect of re- ance. If so, when will it bring stricting information to an in- health insurers to heel?

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

Reduce risk with a broader portfolio

Name: Neil Lamont Age: 45

Occupation: production man-

The problem: Mr Lamont has a range of separate investments and pension funds that have been acquired in a somewhat haphazard manner over the years, partly through privatisations and de-mutualisations. He is looking for his financial affairs to be simplifted and improved if possible. He would also like advice regarding a pension for his wife, a self-employed but non-taxpaying

The solution: Subject to capltal gains tax (CGT) considerations it may make sense to liquidate some of these holdings which, being mostly in the utilities sector, are less diversified than they should be.

Neil Lamont has a preserved pensioo with a large multi-national company, which he left following a management buyout. He presently contributes about 15 per cent of his income into his new employer's money purchase scheme, where the money is invested to produce a lump sum at retirement, out of which to buy an annuity. The employer separately pays 3 per cent of salary into the pension fund. Mr Lamont's wife bas no

pension and pays no tax. The couple also have a range of investments, including PEPs, Tessas, National Savings, shares from privatisations, plus a C&G instant access account, and an endowment policy from Scottish Life, continuing contributions.

left over after the mortgage was paid off. The couple calculate the total maturity value of the investments at about £30,000.

In addition, Mr Lamont's father has set up a trust fund for his grandson's education, consisting of several hundred Halifax shares. Two daughters are already at university.

Finally, Mr Lamont has death-in-service benefits worth three times his salary, plus insurance to pay out 75 per cent of his salary for five years should long-term illness strike. In the event of either his or his wife's death, the couple will also receive £10,000 a year through a separate insurance policy with Scottish Life.

The adviser: Andy Cowan, senior consultant at Aitchison & Colegrave Group, independent financial advisers, 10 Park Circus, Glasgow, G3 6AX, (0141 332 5961).

The advice: Retirement ought to be a time to celebrate and Mr Lamont needs to ensure that his pension will provide an adequate income when he does retire. As a member of a contracted-in money purchase arrangement (where he is still paying contributions into Serps, the state's earnings-related pension) Mr Lamont needs to bear in mind that the pension payable is dependent on contributions paid, plus investment performance and anunity rates. He should carry out an extensive audit of how much he is likely to receive at retirement, based on current and

parisons between different fund performance, whether it makes sense to switch, such as, for example, his former employer's funds into the current one.

Additionally, as Mr Lamont's new scheme is contracted into Serps, it may be worth considering the benefits of opting out through a personal pension. His new employers may not, however, wish to contribute to a personal pension

As for savings and investments, the couple's portfolio is not particularly viable, given its relatively small size. If invest-

ed solely in privatisations it is likely to be concentrated in the utilities sector, while a more diversified fund would reduce overall risk. Some of these investments could be liquidated in favour of more broadly based collective schemes. It should be possible to top up existing Tessa and PEP holdings to the an-

With regard to his death-inservice protection, most people would consider that the amount of "safe" income available from a fund is about 5 per cent of its value. It may therefore be sensible for Mr Lamont to consider topping it up to four times his

nual limits

annual salary, possibly through a private scheme, given its importance to his wife in the event of his death.

As for Mr Lamont's son, our eeling is that the holding in Halifax shares is overly conceotrated and likely to underperform the market on a medium-term view. A portfolio of relatively low-risk, zerodividend preference shares would appear to be a suitable alternative and could be structured to provide regular redemptions to fund school fees over a period.

Mr Lamont wanted some pension advice relative to his

Neil Lamont should carry out an extensive audit of how much he is likely to receive at retirement George

1300

America

daughter who is about to gradnate with a pharmacy degree. However, it is presently difficult * to offer much advice given that -while good - her present employment prospects are not known. As for savings, again, there are a number of potential options, but until we know her level of income, specific guidance is more difficult.

Finally, Mrs Lamont, who is not able to contribute to a personal pension because of her non-taxpaying status, may still make contributions into a PEP for the remainder of the present tax year and into the Government's new tax-free vehicle. the Individual Savings Account, from April 1999. Should she find herself in a position where her income grows and she does pay tax, she can, of course, begin paying into a personal pen-

If you would like a free financial makeover, please write to Andrew Verity, clo Free Financial Makeover, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Please note, you must be prepared for your name and photograph to appear in these pages.

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/THE ISRAEL HORIZONS FUND

The product: Israel Horizons Fund. The deat lovest a minimum of \$10,000 (£6,130) and get access to the growth potential of Israeli stocks. The fund is managed by Psagot, a subsidiary of Bank Leumi, one of Israel's two biggest banks. In the UK, the fund is distributed via intermediaries through Shore Capital, a London-based stockbroker.

tech stocks, pharmaceuticals and banks can tap into local expertise.

Some believe the Israeli stockmarket is undervalued compared to western bourses. Emerging market valuations can be evaluated using priceto-book ratios - the price of the Plus points: Investors get a rare company against the value of its assets. matic. SocGen launched an Israel fund

\$3.50 for every \$1 of assets.

The upfront charge looks reasonable. Investors pay 2.5 per cent, whereas most unit trusts take a bid/offer spread of around 5 per cent.

Drawbacks and risks: The last time a fund like this was launched was trau-

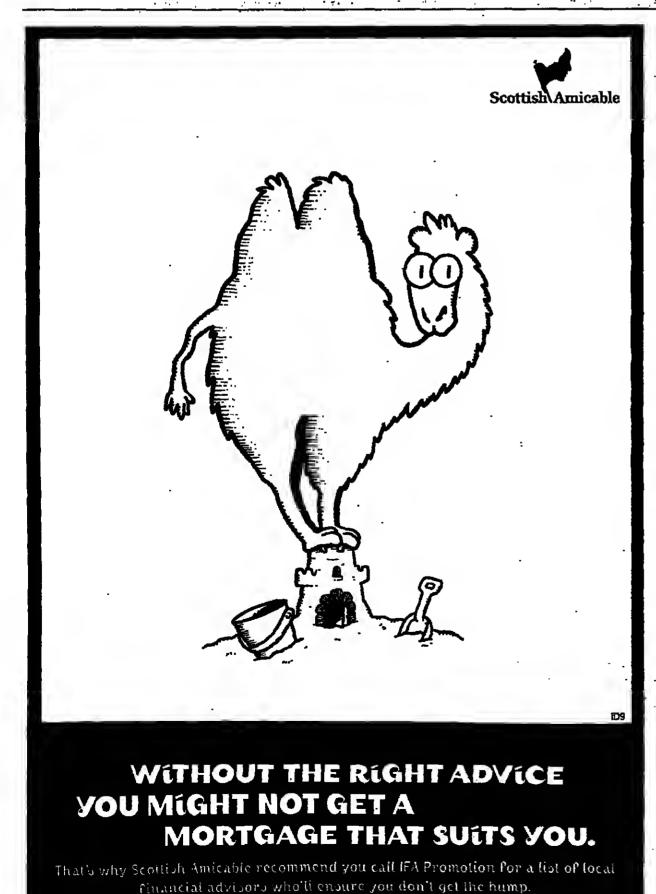
lions of dollars. In early 1994, Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, hiked interest rates, causing the dollar to appreciate and worldwide markets to plummet. There was

little SocGen could do to avoid an awful investment record in its fund. The timing of this launch may be

chance to invest in a dedicated Israeli
In Israel one pays \$1.40 for \$1 of asfund. Wealthy investors who want hisets. In the UK the amount is at least
were trendy, and gathered in tens of milwere trendy, and gathered in tens of millars). Annual charges are higher than some other emerging market funds, at 2 per cent a year.

Verdict: Fine, but strictly for the adventurous, well-off type. Marks out of five: Three and a half (bearing in mind the above).

Andrew Verity



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Health insurers get a poor report

Health insurers have been issued with a "final warning" by the Office of Fair Trading to eliminate policies that are harmful to consumers or face full statutory controls.

The OFT, the competition watchdog, this week gave insurers until 30 September to transform their practices or face direct regulation by the Financial Services Authority.

In the OFT's second hid to reform private medical insurance in barely two years, John Bridgeman, the watchdog's director general, said the industry had broadly failed to respond to a damning report in 1996. That report highlighted rampant inflation in premiums and widespread confusion among customers, who were often unaware that the policies failed to cover a whole swathe of medical needs.

Mr Bridgeman said this week: "Health insurers have not shown much concern for improving the information, choice and service to their consumers. If the industry wishes to retain self-regulation it should carefully consider, and then act

are confused about cover and don't realise how quickly premiums can increase. The industry is in trouble, says Andrew Verity

decisively upon, the recommendations in my new report."

The OFT argues that sales literature confuses customers to such an extent that in one survey 79 per cent of them wrongly thought they were covered for chronic, ongoing medical conditions such as arthritis or Alzheimer's disease. They also thought their policy would pay for drugs needed after an

In fact most private medical insurance covers only acute conditions that require oncoff operations. Many policies exclude claims for outpatient treatment and few pay for drugs peeded after an operation.

The OFT wants health insurers to develop a new code of practice which provides for a with simple, standardised terms. may try to avoid seeking treat-findings.

Insurers must show customers how quickly premiums can increase, the OFT said. Premiums in the last decade have risen by an average of 3.5 per cent a year above inflation.

Many customers failed to realise that premiums increase with The regulator's report says the Financial Services Authority should monitor the use of

moratoria" by health insurance companies. Under moratoria, customers can buy a policy without the need for a medical examination.

but cannot claim if they are treated for a pre-existing condition within the first two years. This makes premiums cheaper and a quicker sale can be made. The snag is that consumers

The charges are substantial: that customers ment. The OFT daims some patients recovering from serious illness had been sold moratorium policies - even though they had been advised to go for regular medical check-ups. Other kinds of health insur-

ance should also be standardised. the OFT says. These include critical illness insurance, permanent health insurance and long-term care insurance.

The £2bn health insurance market is dominated by two players: Bupa, with 40 per cent of the market, and PPP, now owned by Guardian Royal, with 30 per cent. Norwich Union has

10 per cent. Bupa said this week it supported the OFT's call for henchmarked products and opposed the use of moratoria on policies. But it resists calls for customers to be shown how quickly premiums have risen. The Association of British Insurers, the industry trade body, this week said it would be studying the OFT's report in detail, although it did core of "benchmarked" products with pre-existing conditions not agree with some of its

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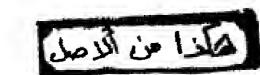
The Index-Tracking PEP

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Stories to chill the blood

Collect to Invest: The pages of forgotten travelogues tell tales of big game hunting and the racism of imperialists.

They thrill, embarrass and are selling for hundreds, reports John Windsor

The American actress Whoopi Goldberg collects racist hooks. Respectable heads of American corporations collect books about hig game hunting. Could white colonists have imagined. as they penned descriptions of their slaving and exterminating. seller Adrian Harrington, £300). that their hooks would find a market in the 20th century among those who condemn them?

Look around this year's Antiquarian Book Fair at Olympia. 4-7 June, and you will find politically incorrect travel books displayed in a new category of their own - and that their prices are rising. Many still lie unrecognised and priced at a pound or so in secondhand bookshops.

The irony is that, amid the blatant racism and blood-lust. you can find opinions that have emerged as the political correctness of today. Take big game hunting. Today's rich Americans buy licences to cull wild animals in Tanzania, Botswana and South Africa. They are allowed to shoot, for example, old water buffalos lagging behind the herd. Their licence fees fund conservation.

With this in mind, read the account written in 1892 by the renowned hig game hunter Alexander Kinloch, in his Large Game Shooting in Thibes, The Himalayas, Northern and Centrul India, If the "limited school" that is anti-field sports had its way, he rants, "men would become effeminate and women would lose much that now gives dignity and charm to their sex". So far, vivid, macho stuff.

But, perhaps surprisingly, Kinloch supports "judicious hunong", instead of the "vulgar and childish desire to show a long list of slain at the end of the day, and obtain the cheap notoriety of the heaviest hag of

Sotheran, whose Edmund Pol- and how it becomes part of a der tree from top to toe, as if linger has been snapping up culture - even though they he could not just then for his such books for a year or two. He says: "It's an armchair thrill. You are participating in hig game hunting alongside some extraordinary people who adapted to their surroundings with little protection and somehow managed not to die. As far as prices are concerned, you have to feel your way - so far it's an untapped market."

Lord Hindlip's 1906 yarn of hunting in Abyssinia and British East Africa (£798) has a hint of self-parody worthy of Monty Python: "I was called from the clouds by a yell from the guide, and, turning round, saw at a distance of only 15 to 20 yards two rhino charging full tilt at us. I turned for my heavy rifle, which I saw to my horror was in its sling-case and unloaded. There was nothing to do but bolt. My syce, who was nearest the rhino, tripped and fell heavily on his face. That day, for some reason, I had put on a topee instead of a double terai hat, and as the boy fell, this blew off and fell between the prostrate syce and the rhino, which stopped short, tried to born the bat, and got a Mannlieher hullet from Osman in the shoulder.

It's amazing how much thinking you can cram into the few seconds it takes a charging rhino to catch up with you. Winston Churchill, in his My African Journey (1908, clothbound, available from bookrecalled: "There is time in refleet with some detachment that, after all, we were the aggressors; we it is who have forced the conflict by an unprovoked assault with murderous intent upon a peaceful

Mr Pollinger says: "Around the 1920s and 1930s a revulsion seems to have set in, and authors take to the camera instead of the gun. Some relied on their flash to scare the lion they were photographing. If the flash failed, they were in trouble.

And what of the natives? There is often a curious mixture of respect and contempt. Captain FA Dickinson's book about big game hunting, published in 1908, lists three "Don'ts" when advising how to treat hearers. "Don't ignore a good gun bearer's good advice because you think you know a thing or two. Don't promise a native a thing you can't do. Don't on any ac-

count lose your temper." If we chose to judge, we might give the benefit of the doubt to Dickinson's "Remember a savage was born a savage and brought up as a savage, and always will be one". Respect for local knowledge of the laws of nature, perhaps? But he goes on: "He has no hrains. Treat him accordingly".

Whoopi Goldberg goes for such strong stuff. She has bought from Adrian Harrington, who also supplies black American institutions that collect black history. "There are a lot of black collectors," he says.

"These are important docu- "stopping and turning around The book is £648 from the ments that help them to under- on his high heel ... with lips antiquarian booksellers Henry stand where racism comes from compressed, viewing some slenmake you blush to look at

There is some pretty rednecked stuff about. John Campbell's Negro-mania, published in It is little sought after. But 1851 in Philadelphia (£95 from Harrington's), says: "The dark race must submit to the fair". On equality: "God never intended it, had he so willed he would have made all one

Sir Thomas Herbert's Some Yenres Travels Into Africa, published in 1677, alleges that the women of the Cape of Good Hope breed with monkeys. With misinformation like that hallowed by hard covers, is it any wonder that whites came to regard blacks as inferior? The book is £1,500 from Bernard

In Britain in the 1820s, prints eirculated showing monkeys dressed in suits. They were bought by a white middle class that had difficulty accepting the freed slaves who were beginning to make their way in white society.

An unexpected slant on dressing up is in the Very Reverend Ignatius Scoles's book. 937 1465. Maggs, 0171-493 Sketches of African and Indian 7160. Bernard Shapero, 0171-Life in British Guiana, 1885, 493 0876.



Their language is cother spithly than articulately founded, with whom his chought nicy have turnstant mixture, four other the commentator upon Praissy observed long since. Humana care forecasts, so fridare point quantism indicating, naving a voice twist humana and healt, makes that supposition to be of more credit, that they have a braility copulation or turnsmalare. So as considering the resemblance they best with Bahous, which I could observe keep frequent company with the Women, their speech, not unlike the Sunican neighbouring the Massace mentioned by spallows in his structure, rather agreeing with besits than men, their surge life, diet, exercise, and the like curriculations, these may be skid to be the descent of Suryus, if any such ever were, and probably trays one of these than appeared to shown the hierarine, in his like mentioned. Now what Philosophers altedge concerning the sunities of the Soul way be made applicable to chess Arimals, that the Soul of Man is growingly rather than specifically directive and Philosophers altedge concerning the sunities in an analysis sures or Gold amounts Metals. Upon which account, the Speciard of late years made it the Subject of their ciripates. Whether the West laterates of descent storn strong a mo? Or whether they were not rather the West laterates of descent storn a Copulation of Women with Monicers; which as repagnant to the due course of nature is not to be submained; though these are a subject for that dispute as much as any. Arigins, about be submained; though these are a subject for that dispute as much as any. Arigins, about be submained; though these are a subject for that dispute as much as any. Arigins, about be submained;

Sir Thomas Herbert's tome of 1677 alleged that Africans bred with monkeys

which describes how on Sunday

botanic name".

slaves sell better than books by

the contents of these books

puts a premium value on them.

What about the photograph of

"The author, testing the nerve

of a native who has a banana on

his head to be shot off in A

Yankee in Pygmy Land by

William Geil, 1905, £248 from

Antiquarian Book Fair: a free

ticket can be obtained by

applying to the Antiquarian

Booksellers' Association, 0171-

439 3118, Sotheran's, 0171-439

6151. Adrian Harrington, 0171-

Sotheran's?

Correctness apart, the sheer incongruousness of some of

anti-slavery reformers.

INTERNET INVESTOR



ROBIN AMLOT

It was only a couple of weeks ago that I was saying that the Internet is not a mature medium. It is not. Furthermore, there has been proof this month that the people who use it are apparently not too mature either. I am not referring to the teenage cybernerds who look at web pornography but rather to the gullible twits who handed over a total of £18m to a spurious "Bank Debenture Trading Programme" which was being promoted over the Internet.

The International Chamber of Commerce's London-hased Commercial Crime Bureau reports that US and Canadian investors were told that few people would qualify for these investment opportunities, which were "by invitation only". Transactions were said to be kept strictly confidential by all parties, for which reason no client references were available. You can find out more about how this particular scam worked on the International Chamber of Commerce's website.

Your internal alarm hells would ring madly if somebody came up to you in the street with an excellent investment opportunity which is by invitation only and which had no references or track record, Remember the simple investment rule. If something looks too good to be true, it probably is. Further, just because something in return you get 14 days' tem- Star Direct: www.eaglestardirect. is offered on the Internet, that

The same rules apply in cyberspace as elsewhere: be sure the small print makes sense

doesn't of itself make it better than products offered elsewhere, and it should still be understandable! Do not allow yourself to be

baffled by cod science. What the Internet can be is an incredibly powerful and cheap research tool to allow you to find out more about your potential investments. Here's another old financial saw - invest in what you know. Which is all very well hur few of us will know much about more than a handful of compa-

nies. So where to find out more? One useful starting point is CAROL, which is a free service offering Company Annual Reports On-Line. It is run by the investor relations department of March Communications, a public relations company, and is a set of links to corporate websites offering hackground information and details of financial performance. More than 80 companies in the FT-SE 100 now publish at least part of their annual report and accounts information on the Internet, compared to just 29 this time last year.

Where the web can definitely score is on speed and ease of access. For example, Legal & General is offering immediate temporary health insurance cover. All you need to do is complete and submit the on-line form and porary cover for Legal & Gen- co.uk Halifax: www.halifax.co.uk

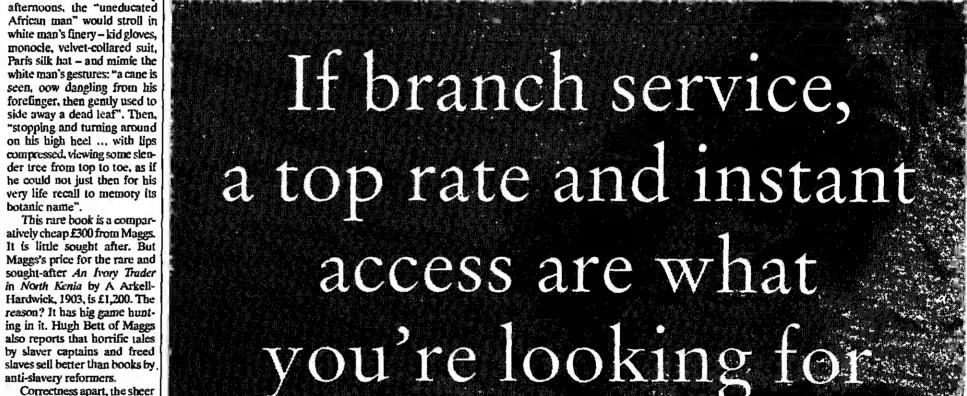
eral's Lifetime Essentials Health-Care. When you submit the form the website displays a certificate of lemporary cover, which you need to print or save for your own information. Cover begins from midnight on the day you apply and continues for 14 days.

Admittedly the rest of the process relies on what the netheads call snail-mail. You will be sent full documentation explaining the cover you have chosen and an application form. If you decide to take out the policy the cover will continue and you will be charged accordingly. If you decide not to proceed with the policy. then cover will lapse without charge, provided that a claim has not been made.

Another recent addition to the insurance policies available on the Internet is Eagle Star Direct's travel insurance. Individuals, couples and families can purchase annual or single-trip cover from the travel insurance site. Unlike some other web offerings, this site allows you to get a quotation and full policy information, have the option to store the quote, and then purchase the product while

Eagle Star Direct was the first insurer to offer motor insurance direct on the net. Several companies promote travel insurance and some offer quotations by email. However, only one other group, the Halifax, sells travel insurance direct over the Internet. Strangely enough, the Halifax Travel Insurance Service is underwritten by Home & Overseas Insurance, a subsidiary of Eagle Star.

International Chamber of Commerce: www.iccwbo.nrg CAROL: www.carol.co.uk Legal & General: www.legal-and-general.co.uk Eagle



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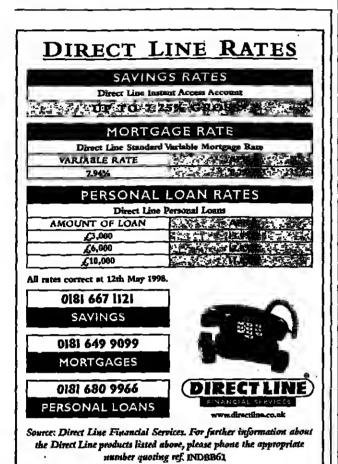
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BRIAN TORA Why I'm watching Russia

So now it is Russia's turn. nothing invested in Russia, Sergei Kiriyenko must be re- does it really matter? Unforgretting catching the eye of his tunately it does. If devaluation president. His own premier- is forced upon the government ship could turn out to be very there could be a knock-on ef-

short-lived indeed. parallels with the Asian crises, tainly what speculators are the simution in Russia is very banking on, expecting a simdifferent. While speculators gather to bet upon devaluation which brought South-east being forced upon the Russian Asia to a shuddering halt foladministration, arguably the lowing the collapse of the rouble is not expensive. Un- Thai baht. But the case for a fortunately, though, the re-cent record of the Russian clear. Aside from anything government does not look else, it could unseat the reform good. The country is in an economic mess and badly needs ther turmoil. money in its public coffers.

The failure of the adminyou cannot blame investors for rouble will have to be big. beating a path to the exit.

has more than balved. In the past it has been one of the bet- 11-year low and Eastern Enter performing emerging markets, but patience is running out. The country has been sub- ing their attention to Central ject to considerable disruption and South America in the following the government's belief that there really is a inability to pay public sector disease out there and it is very wages. Striking miners block- cootagious. If that happens, ed railway lines, action that you can kiss goodbye to the cannot have helped an economy already reeling under of money or oo weight of successive shocks, not the mooey. least of which is the very high level of interest rates.

The decision to triple the to take. Interest rates were raised last week, as it was, and the yield on Russian government debt has now topped 80 per cent. Crippling rates like this will damage the economy still further.

fect around the former states Tempting as it is to draw of Eastern Europe. This is cerilar situation to develop to that

Much will depend on what action the IMF takes. Alistration to sell off one of its ready camped in Moscow, we largest state assets, the oil can expect to see some fairly company Rosneft, was the impressive numbers bandied last straw in what has looked about as they endeavour to reto be a steadily deteriorating turn stability to the region. But situation. In the circumstances a fighting fund to protect the

programme and lead to fur-

What this has exemplified Since the beginning of the is that emerging markets are year the Russian stock market still not flavour of the month. With the Korean market at an rope looking distinctly rocky. pessimists could soon be turnglobal bull market, weight

So, as you can see, what is happening in Russia is of more than passing interest to cost of money to 150 per ceot the rest of us investors comwill not have been an easy one mitted to the cult of equity. Cheap holidays in Thailand might be eoticing but, speakfrom 30 per cent to 50 per cent ing personally, I shall be quite happy if a trip to St Petersburg costs just as much this autumn as it does oow.

Brian Tora is chairman of the But, given that the average Greig Middleton investment man in the street probably has strategy committee.

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It's worth shopping around for mortgage protection

Protect the roof over your family's head

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Mortgage protection is one of the of Europe's third largest and they don't pay their staff Buying your own home will commission - which means no the phone was very friendly and P probably be your biggest pressurised selling. And just by efficient, and the quote only took y investment, so having cover that working in the public sector, you a few minutes. I was also very

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Municipal. Over the 18-year year mortgage protection cover period of cover, this certainly

Wiltshire, is married to Jane and out a policy with Zurich says: "The person on the end of M happy to discover I could have a 15% discount because of my job,

many things in life, it could protection. After receiving a From the tables you can see for sector discount. Monthly premise really pay to shop around before quote from his mortgage lender. yourself how economical it is to are dependent on a number of Graham decided to phone choose Zurich Municipal for factors and in particular are

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Apart from mortgage protection. Zurich Municipal also offers term issurance, which provides straight life cover without any connection to your mortgage. They can also cover you for critical illness, so that you would receive a lump sum if one of a range of specific illnesses was diagnosed.

All round, Zurich Municipal is well worth considering for insurance cover. Why not phone them on 0800 147 147 - it's free. Their helpful staff are ready to take your call from 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Please quote th reference IND2405.

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The rewards of a little bit of risk

Corporate bonds offer a good compromise for the investor who likes to play fairly safe, says Rachel Fixsen

Continuing nervousness in the UK stock market is leading increasing numbers of risk-averse investors to search for "safe havens" for their hard-earned savings. Many are turning to corporate bonds - seen as safer than equities but higher yielding than deposits or government-hacked bonds - as a means of minimising risk.

This strategy carries the approval - albeit not totally disinterested - of some experts. "If [stock] markets are going to sell off a lot you have got some additional protection with bonds," says Mark Gull, investment manager at Gartmore for the Nat-West Extra Income Trust - a corporate bond fund.

The stock market certainly has risen strongly. The FT-SE 100 share index hovered this week at around 5,880, up 14.5 per cent since the start a corporate bond unit trust. of this year and 26 per cent since this time last year. Yet many analysts are now suggesting that a correction is long overdue. So what exactly are count, but most advisers still reccorporate bonds?

hasically IOUs issued by companies for money borrowed. The honds pay "coupon". They are seen as safer than ordinary shares because if a company goes bankrupt, bondholders have to be repaid before shareholders get a look in.

Once bonds have been issued and become securities traded between investors, the face value can go up or down. For instance, the price of a bond might fall if long-term interest rates rise. Io keep the return on capital invested in line with market rates. If, for example, a £100 bond paying 5 per cent is sold for £50, then the return doubles to 10 per cent. Or a bond's price might fall if the company that issued it gets into difficulties and there is a possibility it may not he able to redeem the bond.

Corporate bond unit trusts can be held as a personal equity plan (Pep), with the tax advantages that hrings, as long as at least 50 per cent of the fund is held in qualifying assets. So within your Pep allowance you could move some funds from equities into

Peps as we know them are on their way out, to be replaced in April 1999 with the Individual Savings Acommend making the most of this

These fixed-interest instruments year's allowance. As long as you have take many shapes and forms, but are less than £50,000 in Peps, you will be able to transfer investments held within them into ISAs when they an annual rate of interest, or come in, ISAs are also tax free and terms are similar to Peps.

Bond funds mainly suit people who want their investment to produce an income rather than capital growth. This means retired people in partieular. But Ruth Clarke, development director at Commercial Union Trust Managers, says about 60 per cent of husiness in its Monthly Income Plus unit trust, a diversified corporate bond fund, at the moment is income being reinvested.

"Because there's this issue about whether the market's looking a hit 'toppy', there are investors moving into the MIP, treating it as a lowerrisk growth vehicle," says Ms Clarke.

But, depending on the asset mix of the fund, there may also he some capital growth if you leave the investment in place for a reasonable period, says Colin Jackson of Baronworth Investment Services. If some of the assets are held in equities, there is likely to be capital growth. And over the last few years there has been some growth in corporate hond values because long-term interest rates have been declining.

Over the last five years, a £1,000 lump-sum investment in the Legal & General Fixed Interest unit trust

While the stock market remains a choppy ride, investors are looking for safe havens for their money

would have grown to £1,448.79, as-

suming net income was reinvested.

If the same amount had been in-

vested in a UK Gilt unit trust, it

would on average have grown to

£1,333,59 according to Moneyfacts. the financial information provider. That money would have done even better, but arguably been at more risk, in an equity income fund where on average it would have swelled to £2.025.74.

Not all corporate bond unit trusts are the same. In many ways they vary far more than equity funds, because of the different types of instrument

held within them. "There is a wide range of risk pro-

files of these funds." says Mr Gull. For instance, within Pep rules, a corporate bond unit trust could hold much of its qualifying assets allocation in convertible bonds. These are bonds which after a certain date can be converted to ordinary shares in the issuing Corporate bonds are theoreticalcompany. This means they tend to imitate share price movements rather

than the government bond market. And the 50 per cent of assets which do not have to be held as honds could he held as foreign shares - subject to currency risk on top of stock market risk. So look closely at the composition of a fund tables will not tell the whole story.

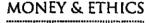
"A lot of the ones you see leading the performance tables do that on the back of a lot of convertibles and preference shares which hehave more like equities," says Steve Abbott, marketing director for Legal & General Unit Trust Managers.

ly more risky than government bonds, or gilts, but in practice issuers are often huge corporations, such as Abbey National, "The chances of defaulting are pretty remote," says Ms Clarke.

One thing to watch out for is that the fund is not using up capital to produce a high-income stream. Look ditions on more than 60 funds. Legal before buying units in it. Performance at the running yield, which measures & General, 01222 448412; Commerthe income as a percentage of the cial Union, 0181-686 9818.

current cost of buying the bond, adds Andrew Bellshaw of Gartmore Extra Yield Fund, and compare this with the redemption yield, which also takes into account how much the bonds can be redeemed for, "If the redemption yield is lower than the running yield you can be fairly confident that you're burning your cap-

Baronworth Investment Services, 0181-513 1219. On request, Baronworth will send readers a free copy of its Corporate Bond Table which compares con-



So you want to buy your home with a clear conscience?

In the latest of his series lain Morse offers tips for the ethically minded on how to evaluate mortgages on offer: who deals with whom and what ... risks your principles

Arranging one's finances in the most ethical way possible is

expose you to

not just about investment. It extends to many other areas, including horrowing a mortgage. Yet ethically-minded investors face some tricky choices when it comes to finding the right

At the very least, an understanding about lenders and their policies will come in useful, according to Amanda Davidson, a partner in Holden Meehan, a firm of Londonhased independent financial advisers. She says: "A degree of pragmatism helps, depending on where you borrow and which means of repayment you

In the UK there are two important types of lender for domestic mortgages; banks and huilding societies. The key difference from an ethical investor's point of view is that-

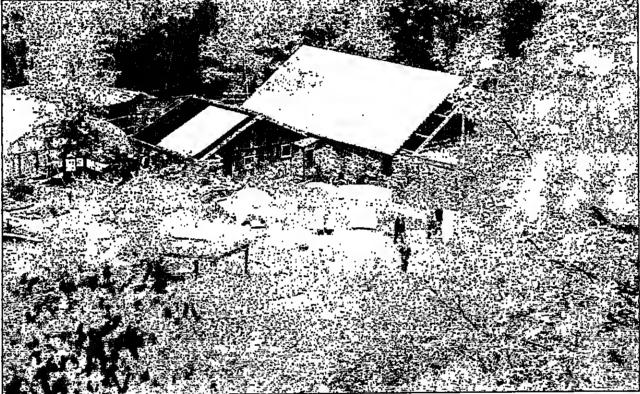
while most banks lend to governments and companies of all sizes, mutual huilding societies do not.

Precisely because of their mutual status, building socicties must restrict their core business to deposit taking from and lending to individual members of the public. This means that they are free of involvement in areas of business which many ethical investors would regard as unacceptable.

The "big four" elearing banks: Barelays, Lloyds/TSB. Midland and NatWest, are cometimes accused of involvement in the provision of third world debt. Moreover, investors who object to the arms indus-Iry argue that any bank huying UK gilts is to some extent funding government expenditure on weapons through the Ministry of Defence.

Behind this lies a larger issue about banking confidentiality; the principal ethical question to ask of a hank is who they lend money to. Few are prepared to answer this question. Confidentiality is crucial to the success of banking operations. So selecting a bank by areas of husiness it avoids is virtually impossible.

A third category of mortgage providers, so-ealled "direct lenders", account for a small but growing sector of the market. Borrowing a mortgage "book" on the international money market, then reselling it to individual borrowers, they fail the same ethical test as applied to clearing banks.



There are exceptions to this rule: both the Co-operative Bank and the much smaller Triados Bank can fairly claim to follow ethical principles in their hanking policies. Unfortunateproduct ranges.

Among the larger clearing hanks, Abbey National does not lend direct to companies. About 40 per cent of Abbey's

gages. The Abbey is also committed to taking "proper regard to the environment". But Abbey National does buy UK gilts and securities issued by other UK banks with high credit ratly, neither currently offers do- mgs - a list likely to include mestic mortgages as part of their some of the "big four" already mentioned.

If this sounds negative, Ms Davidson warns against despair: "Despite the conversion of some large building societies £151hn assets, of which two- to bank status, those remaining thirds are UK-based, is in mort-still offer a wide enough choice

of mortgage options to compete with the bank sector." Moreover, going to a huilding society is often cheaper. At present. the average lending rate charged by huilding societies is 8.34 per cent, against the banks'

per cent. Ethically orientated mutuals include the Ecology Building Society, which lends nationally on the purchase and restoration of old huildings, and the Catholic Building Society which has a stated policy of helping

those who cannot easily find a mortgage. Meanwhile, Norwich and Peterborough Building Society has just launched a "green mortgage" available only for the purchase of homes that meet stringent criteria on energy conservation. The society completed its first "green loan" this week.

Separate from finding a loan, the way of paying it off can also create difficulties for the ethically-minded. Rob Harrison, editor of The Ethical Consumer

magazine, argues; "The moralmonthly payments include in-terest and capital, with a mutual

Choosing this option means that you will only have to pur- have significant holdings in chase life insurance to cover the amount owed on the mortgage. "Look for the cheapest cover off a mortgage riskier than from a mutual insurer, or friendly society," advises Ms Davidson, "that way you know where your money is going."

But for those who still want pay off the capital after a given en period, providers of ethical funds offer a variety of options: PEPs, so-called "unitised" endowments and even personal pensions, all of which can be volatile." used to pay off an interest-only

mortgage.

Ms Davidson advises caution to ethical investors tempted by this method of repayment: "Il's a matter of carefully weighing the pros and cons in terms of your particular circumstances."

Traditional with-profits endowments do not offer negative or positive screening on the underlying investments they hold, hut do offer a low-risk means of paying off your mortgage loan. Typically, these funds hold a portfolio of investments including gilts, commercial property and shares in large, blue-chip companies aspects of money and ethics, inwhich may, or may not be, ethical in their own business

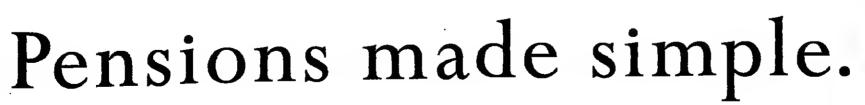
"Ethical funds by contrast page 4.

tend to be more volatile in the ly cleanest solution is to take a short to medium term because repayment mortgage, where they are invested into a narrower range of company shares. usually with a higher proportion of those in smaller companies," Ms Davidson suggests. None property and most avoid gilts. This makes using them to pay using a with-profits fund.

The performance of ethical funds can also show significant variation. Clerical Medical's "Evergreen" fund. available an interest-only loan, where an in a PEP or unitised endowinvestment is built up to belp ment, shows five-year growth of just 29.0 per cent. John Allen, chief fund manager at Clerical Medical, concedes: "It's not ideal for use as part of a mortgage, because it's too

Friends Provident is more confident that its Stewardship Fund can he used to back an interest-only mortgage, with 10-year growth on a unit-linked endowment averaging 9.52 per cent growth a year over that period. The company's withprofits fund has returned 8.11 per cent average growth over the same period.

The 'Independent' has produced a free 28-page 'Guide to Ethical Finances' by Nic Cicutti, the paper's personal finance editor. The guide, sponsored by Friends Provident, has information on all cluding loans and how to pay them off. Call 0800 214487 for a copy or fill in the compon on



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A good standard of care in old age comes at a price. Tony Lyons looks at the elderly or the infirm. what it takes

to provide it

People are living longer. In the ing costs of caring for the elderly. past this hardly mattered as family and friends provided a al Commission looking at betnetwork of care. But with the break up of the extended fam- care. But in the meantime a ily, children moving further long-term care policy, providing away for work, divorce, more of cover for cases of serious ill the elderly living alooe, it's health and infirmity, is one of the more important than ever to think ahead, to plan for possi- the ravages of age. But of the ble long-term care in the future.

firm is estimated to cost near- made their own provision. ly £50bn a year - and the bill is rising. Meanwhile the standard

sell their homes to pay for sphere. There are no fewer some sort of long-term care. than 10 companies offering a This has presented a myriad of problems, few of which

provision.

of money.

and friends

mistakes you can make," says

Mr Harvey. "The first is to pro-

ceed to take out the cover, pay

the premiums and die peace-

fully in your bed aged 85 with-

out ever having made a claim.

This route may incur the wrath

of your children who would

without long-term care, instead

saving the money you would

have paid in premiums. In 10

or 12 years' time you may have

you then have, say, a stroke?

Your ill-equipped spouse may

then have no option but to put

you in a nursing home where

the fees could cost up to

£30,000 a year, draining your

capital reserves and children's

Don't be certain that you

woo't need long-term care.

Every year some 100,000 suffer

a stroke, and at any time there

are 350,000 who have suffered

from one that has left them with

a severe disability; some 680,000

over 65 suffer from some form

of dementia; and more than 40

per ceot of the over-65s have a

loog-term illness that limits

their ability to perform every-

as things stand, there is no as-

sistance from the Social Services

until your total assets are below

£16,000. To help you to make

the right choice you need to talk

to an adviser about the type of

care you might need, what

would be a reasonable cost, how

much savings and income you

have, and how much you would

be estitled to receive. .

It is vital to remember that,

inheritance."

day activities.

The second mistake is to do

can readily be solved. Hospitalisation is not the answer for Nursing, whether at home or

in an institution, is an expensive affair - care fees average £335 a week or £17,500 a year. Each year more than 40,000 homes are being sold to pay for the ris-

The Government has a Royter ways of providing long-term few defences available against 180,000 that go into care each Caring for the elderly and in-year, less than a quarter will have

Paul Harvey, of long-term care experts Caswell and Comof care and attention we have pany, independent financial come to expect is beyond the advisers in Oxted, Surrey, says: financial capabilides of most "Long-term care' is an allfamilies. This means that as the embracing phrase that the life. state becomes less and less able insurance industry has adopted to adequately look after its cit- for its protection policies." This izens in their old age more el- generalisation causes confuderly people could be forced to sion in an already complicated

DO'S AND DONT'S OF LONG TERM CARE

 Do involve your family in any decisions you make. · Doo't proceed with an investment contract unless you ful-

ly understand the risks involved. Do make sure you have a thorough understanding of all.

the products available, not just ooe. . Don't wait until the Royal Commission deliberates on leg-

islation for loog term care. . Do proceed to make provision with a company that will

alter its policy in line with future legislation, at no extra cost Do check whether your premiums are going to increase

and if so, by how much.. . Don't forget that the lawn will still need mowing and house-

hold chores are still going to have to be dooe. Find out who will offer you a tailor-made plan. Do consult an experienced independent financial adviser

who is a long term care expert.

· Do go to another company if your premium is loaded because of existing health problems.

Do calculate what your lifetime income will be for you and

Now you're 64 Health care that doesn't

More and more people are turning to private medical variety of ways to fund for this The prime factor to be coninsurance. Rachel sidered when taking out a long-Fixsen asks why and term care policy should always be the level of care rather than the cost, drawing upon past how much it will experiences of the events surrounding one's own relatives cost you ·· Basically there are two

Free health care for all under the NHS is a great idea. But waiting lists for non-urgent operations are growing, and those who can afford it often prefer to pay rather than put their lives on hold. The cost of private medical and hospital bills is out of the reach of most of us. so insurance is the answer.

consider the insurance a waste Just over 6 million people in the UK are now covered by private medical insurance (PMI), up from 5.2 million in 1986, acamassed £20,000. But what if "The rise in the market may be due to lack of confidence in the NHS. That's where providers have really scored," says Graham Bates of the independent gal & General. financial advisers (IFA) Bates & Partners Consulting Group, in

The majority of PMI policies are sold as job perks. Bupa, the largest in the sector with two- of PMI rose by an average of 9 fifths of the market, says 60 per cent of people covered by its medical insurance are on company schemes. Of those who buy it privately, PMI really appeals to the self-employed who run their own businesses and can- been the case since private not afford to spend time being medical insurance started." on a hospital waiting list, according to Mr Bates.

just a means to cutting waiting time for non-urgent surgical procedures. Many people use private hospitals even for critical conditions such as heart disease and cancer.

The market for PMI is broad, with over 25 providers in the UK offering some 450 plans. Traditional medical in-

cancers are more treatable, and joined by geoeral insurance chemotherapy and radiotherapy companies such as Norwich Union, Allied Dunbar and Lemay go on a lot longer," says PMI broker John Stevens, of the

The cost of PMI has been increasing much faster than inflation, but more competition in the marketplace should begin to slow the pace. Last year, the cost per cent, according to Les Curson, general manager of the provider Clinicare, who says: Medical inflation has been going up by more than the retall price index - but that's

One other factor is simply that people are making more But private treatment is not claims on their insurance. A decade ago, people would use their insurance only as a backup, using the NHS wherever possible. Today people who are covered by PMI do not even think about using the NHS," Mr

Curson says.
Also, technology in hospitals to buy can be a minefield as comparisons are difficult. An is increasingly expensive and this IFA should be able to direct you keeps PMI costs high. "There's surers Bupa and PPP Lifetime . more eligible treatment that to a specialist broker if he or she Care have in recent years been can be done now-for instance, is not able to help. "If your fi-

nancial adviser can't convince you that he or she regularly sells PMI plans from at least three insurers, you should have your doubts," says Mr Curson.

John Stevens Partnership. The policies on offer vary Until last July the over-60s widely in the level of cover they used to benefit from tax relief provide. Most expensive are oo any PMI premiums, but this the deluxe plans which include has been abolished. "People within the PMI market thought dental, optical, maternity and alternative therapy. Next in cost most of those over 60 with come the comprehensive plans which offer full refunds for PMI would have to give it up," says Mr Curson. "Premiums most services including outfor many have gooe up effecpatient treatment and private tively by 30 per cent last year, ambulance service. Budget including the annual increase. plans, the least expensive, are But from our point of view, we've had a drop-out rate of less than 10 per ceot," he says. more restrictive with what they cover, often excluding out-

parieot care, for example. Rather than giving up cover To give an idea of costs, with altogether, many over-60s have traded down, typically taking on budget plans instead, be says. Norwich Union Medical Cover. express or comprehensive cover Others, to reduce costs have taken on a bigger excess, paying the first £200 of any treatmeot themselves. Choosing which PMI policy

for a 45-year-old married man with two children under 18. Trust Care Starter - more limited cover with limited hospitals - would cost the same man £43.48 per month: But, when ; looking at a budget policy. make sure the hospitals you would want to use are included.

"Most people go for the comprehensive plans, because they don't want any shortfalls," says Carole-Anne Hewett of insurance brokers Wiltoo Spero

and Partners. Take care wheo applying for PMI that you are scrupulously hooest about your medical history, advises Graham Bates. "If you have a family history of something, you should mention it, because the chances are very much higher that's why you need the cover," he says.

"And always remember to contact your insurer before having treatment to ensure that any costs incurred will be covered, adds Mr Curson. That way, you can save any arguments later:

would cost £174.66 per mooth John Stevens Partnership, 01480 411666; Bupa, 0171-656 2000; Clinicare, 01438 741641; Norwich Union, 0800 142142; Bates & Partners Consulting Group. 01132 955 955; Wilton Spero and Parmers, 01628 822121. IFA Promotion (0117971 1177) will provide addresses of three IFAs



cording to figures from the Association of British Insurers.

The state of the NHS has pushed more and more people towards private medical insurance

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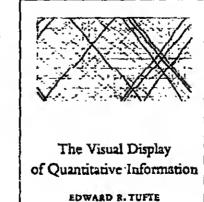
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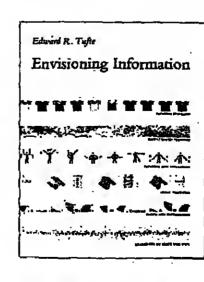
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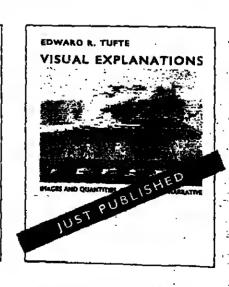
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Peace of mind when your body is falling apart

What happens if you're critically ill ... and survive? As money gets tight you'll be thankful you paid out, says David Prosser

The statistics are scary. One in four men and one in five Paying off the mortgage is ofwomen will contract a critical illness before they reach the age of 65. One in three Britons will the money to pay childreo's be diagnosed as having cancer school fees, for example. If his policy having been paying a at some point in their life. These cooditions doo't always prove fatal and survivors can ofteo face serious disabilities for the rest of their lives.

Bad eoough to have to cope with a serious illness. But have you thought about how your family finances would be affected? If you can't work, how will you pay the mortgage, for ney failure or if you need a ma- says: The range of illnesses cov- cover for a certain period, or on have to do that in the cootext example? And if your condition jor organ transplant. Apart

dants survive? Enter critical illness insursum if you are diagnosed as having a condition covered by your policy. What you do with the money is up to you - it's yours whether you live or die, even if you can cootinue to work.

That flexibility is important. teo the first priority for CII claimants. But you might need you're permanently disabled, the tump sum can pay for alterations to your home, oursing costs, or you could use it to pay medical bills. Termically ill claimants sometimes use their

money for a trip abroad. Generally, a C11 policy will cover you if you suffer a heart attack, stroke, most cancers, kid- adviser who specialises in CII, cies either so as to provide on the range of conditions, we vestors Chronicle'.

is fatal, how will your depen- from these, there are wide variations. Some polices are more extensive than others, covering ance (CII), sometimes known as more than 25 conditions indread disease cover. CII pays cluding multiple sclerosis, Aids, Out a pre-specified cash lump severe arthritis and Alzheimer's

> Of course, most people particularly younger people never dream these conditions will strike. But, says Roddy Kohn of independent financial adviser (IFA) Kohn Cougar, "I think CII is imperative". He explains: "We receotly had a client with testicular cancer who had to claim £100,000 on £26 premium for just eight

However, with more than 60 insurers and some 230 CII prodocts - each covering various cooditions at different prices - finding the right policy can be daunting. Getting help makes sense. John Joseph, an

guide you through all the policies available."

The first stage in finding a good CII policy is deciding which conditions you need cover for. Don't presume the big names offer the best deals. The biggest seller of CII has, in my opinion, got the crappiest policy," says Mr Joseph - he thinks Midland Bank's CII cov-

ers too few conditions.

Most people will want a policy that covers heart attacks and cancer, the two most common serious conditions in the UK. These are always covered. In addition there may he particular conditions you want specified if you have a family history of a certain illness, for example, Where insurers say they will pay out for terminal conditions, or illnesses causing total and permaneot disability, ask about

your specific concerns.

ered is crucial - an IFA can a lifelong basis. If you're most of premiums."

worried about contracting a sehig financial responsibilities, you can afford because some inthe former may be best. Many junction with a mortgage where earth. A 30-year-old male nonthe premiums and the cash smoker, for instance, would sum insured continue until pay £23 a mooth for £100,000 you've repaid the loan, when the of lifetime critical illness cover cover ends.

children are no longer dependent oo you. In which case you'd pay the same level of premium each year until the cover is no longer needed. Other older people.

lo theory price should be the last factor you should coocover you oeed. In practice, says Roddy Kohn: While we Insurers structure CII poli- try to persuade clients to buy The wiver is features editor at In-

However, don't be put off alrious illness while you still have together. Buy as much cover as surance is better than none. In people buy CII policies in cooffact, CII doesn't have to cost the from Bupa, while a 40-year-old Similarly, you might want to would pay £45 a month for the pay out for CII only until your same insurance. The rates for womeo are lower, particularly

later in life. Also consider combining CII with life insurance. While buying the two together is ofpeople prefer to be covered un-til their deaths. But do beware, rate policies, take care with this CII premiums are higher for approach. With most CII policies that include death cover, no one will be able to claim on your death if you've already claimed sider, ooce you've found the on the critical illness portion of

CRITICAL ILLNESS - THE FACTS AT A GLANCE One in four men and one in five women will contract a critical illness (most commonly a cancer, a stroke or heart attack) before they reach the age of 65. Up to half of those diagnosed

will survive five years. - Critical illness insurance aims to pay a tump sum to people affected, which they can use for any purpose, including paying off

a mortgage or going on a world cruise. With more than 60 insurers and 230 separate policies, however, covering a wide range of illnesses beyond the core "dread

diseases", it is important to select the right product. • It can make sense to buy critical illness insurance together with separate life cover. These are known as "accelerated" policies, which pay out on death or diagnosis of an illness, whichever comes first. Again, take care: your dependents will receive nothing after your death if the policy has already paid out on diagnosis

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Knocked back, not knocked out

Common, long-term complaints such as depression or back pain need not leave you penniless, says Tony Lyons

Statistics show that between the ages of 30 and retirement, a persoo is 10 times more likely to suffer from a are to die. Of the population aged between 20 and 65, over 2 million are claiming sickness or invalidity benefit according to the Department of Social Security. At any time, over 1.5 million have been incapable of working for more than a year, of whom nearly 500,000 have been incapacitated for more than four years.

Grim figures indeed. Yet while

Being unable to work due to illness or accident will affect all household budgets. Relying on the state is not enough. Invalidity benefits are severely restricted. As long as you earn more says Lorna Baxter of Legal & Geothan £62 a week, your employer is eral. Most employers will usually ohliged to pay you £55.70 a week for the first 28 weeks that you are unable

Beyond that, the state pays the same amount for the oext 28 weeks, rising to £62.70 after one year. But how many with families could survive long-term illness or accident than they on that kind of money? The average outgoing for bousehold bills. including mortgage repayments, is es-£300 a week

Less than one in 10 of the workforce has any sort of income protection insurance, known in the industry as permanent health insurance (PHT), according to Ronnie Martin, manager of life and health with Royal & Sun most of us have life assurance poli- Alliance, "People don't like to think

come in case we cannot continue all have a head-in-the-sand attitude that it won't happen to me."

This is very much a view backed up by all involved in the sale of PHI. "Too many believe that their employer or the state will take care of them," keep paying salaries for a while. But when it comes to more serious cases, only a minority of employers operate a staff PHI scheme. This ensures that after a certain amount of time. usually three or six months from being unable to work, there will be a monthly payment of up to three-quarters of net salary. Most employees and commence after a mooth, expect to the self-employed, however, will have timated by Legal & General at almost to make their own income protection

provision. There are around 50 PHI plans companies and friendly societies providing income protection usually to

many consider protectiog our in- of illness or accideot," he says. "We because of illness or accident. Most charge a man £10 a month and a long-term incapacity is covered, instress and muscular conditions such as severe back pain, the only exclusions being loog-term incapacity due

to war or dangerous sports. Premiums are determined by age at outset, period of cover, sex of the policyholder - females pay more than males as statistically they are more likely to suffer from long-term medical problems - and whether beoefits are paid at a level rate or escalate with inflation. The over- riding factor determining premium, however, is the deferment period. If payment is to pay a lot more than if it is to commence after three or six months.

There is a wide variation in premiums. For example, a male non-smokcurrently available from insurance eraged 30 who wishes to provide a flat benefit of £20,000 a year payable after six months of incapacity until aged age 60 or 65. They will all pay out a 60 can expect to pay premiums of regular monthly amount if the poli- £25.67 with Zurich Life, or £42.67 if cies, often to pay a mortgage, not about being unable to work because mally working after a specified period er you until 65. Legal & General would suffer from muscular dystrophy."

woman £10.58. If you want the bececluding ME, mental problems due to fits and premiums linked to inflation, then the premiums would be £28 and £46.84 a mooth respectively with Zurich Life.

PHI policies pay out whenever an individual cannot perform his or her normal employ-meot. Some will pay out a proportioo if you can do a less arduous joh, while others will pay the full amount even if the claimant can do other work. Experience shows that nearly one-

third of all claims are due to mental depression or stress, while around another fifth are because of muscular problems, especially with regard to back pain or arthritis. "These are all debilitating, long-term problems," says Mr Martin, "that are covered by PHL Yet during the 1990s, people are choosing to buy critical illness policies which do not cover the main medical problems that cause people to give up working. For example, you can often return to work quite soon after a heart cyholder is unable to continue oor- female. If you wanted the policy to cov- attack but you are unlikely to if you

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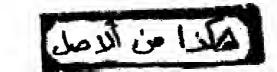
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Little big car



The car you see here could conceivably become the most popular small car in Britain. It's Renault's new Clio, launched just in time for Nicole's wedding unless fact and fantasy have transposed themselves. (Nicole is Renault's chief marketing consultant, small cars. She spends her spare time acting out the role of a French actress called Estelle Skornik.)

Most popular? Well, Renault is making cars that a great many people want to huy. The proof came in April, when the Mégane, helped by the fact that it comes as a hatchhack, a coupé, a convertible, a saloon and - most popular of all - the Scenic MPV. became the best-selling car range in Britain.

The Clio, too, has been a regular sales Top Ten fixture, and its popularity has risen in proportion to its age. There is no better time to replace a car than when it's on a high and the huying public still feels good about it, because it gives the new one the best possible start in life.

The most popular version is likely to he the 1.2 RN, which combines the smallest available engine with the one-up-from-hasic trim level. Other engines are a 1.4, a 1.6 and a diesel, with a direct-injection turbodiesel and a sporty 110bhp, 1.6-litre 16-valve engine to follow. In three-door form, the 1.2 RN is yours for £8,850 on the road.

This is cheap, given that power steering is standard, along with remote-control central locking, a neat stereo-control stalk mounted on the steering column and, less good, a tacky pop-up sunroof. Side airbags are optional, as is one ahead of the front passenger.

Road test Renault Clio, by John Simister

At the front, the new Clio looks like a topologically distorted version of the old one. But as you look rearwards past the bash-proof plastic front wings, it moves further away from familiarity. The roof curves down into a rear window of almost part-cylindrical cross-section. Inside, there's an abundance of ovoid shapes, and you sit high behind a height-advery aware of the way the Clio leans over when you go round a corner. It's a throw-back to the first Renault 5 here, as is the supple, lolloping ride. The quietrubber in the suspension mountings to filter out road

So, too, are anti-lock brakes and air conditioning. roar. And it is for noise-reducing reasons that Renault has ditched the rear suspension system that has served nearly all small French cars for more than three decades, and replaced it with a copy of the torsion-

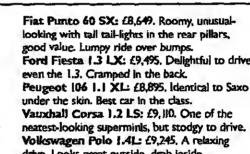
beam axle long favoured by VW, Vauxhall and Ford. The result, says Renault, is a small car with bigcar refinement, and the claim is broadly true. Unfortunately there's a price to pay, because this small justable steering wheel. Because you sit high, you're car can also suffer from a big car's unwieldiness. The old Clio's sharp, nippy agility has degenerated into a torpid semi-anaesthesia, demanding hig. sweeping movements of the steering wheel when ness is new, though: there's a lot of noise-absorbing you're driving gently. Then, if you speed up, strange things happen. All that rubber in the mount-

to the steering that you experienced when going slowly is now followed by an exaggerated reaction. It can he unnerving at first, because you think that the rear wheels are going to skid, but they don't. Passengers will soon tire of the car's squirm and wobble, though. I preferred the old Clio's way of

ings acts like a hig elastic band; the delay in response

coping with corners, even if it was noisier overall. The 1,2 RN's engine uses little fuel; it's a quiet engine as small-car engines go, and it pulls with enough vigour to cope with motorways.

So, that's the new Clio. Is it better than the old one? To have a crash in, yes, because it's stronger and better-engineered to dissipate the force of an impact. To cruise in, too, because it makes less commotion. The new Clio is a fine consumer durable. But the old one was more fun to drive.





SPECIFICATIONS

Price: £8,850 (Clio 1.2 RN 3-door) Engine: 1,159cc, four cylinders, eight valves, 60bhp at 5,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed gearbox, front-wheel drive. Performance: 99mph, 0-60 in 14.7sec, 40-45mpg.

Rivals (all prices for 3-door versions) Citroen Saxo 1.11 SX: £9,060. Less space for tall people than Clio, but faster, handles better. more fun to drive.

Ford Fiesta 1.3 LX: £9,495. Delightful to drive, Peugeot 106 1.1 XL: £8,895, Identical to Saxo drive. Looks great outside, drab inside.

Ah, the wind in the hair, flies in the teeth

The sun is out, the sky is blue and ordinary motorists are itching to get their tops off. Whether you are a motoring enthusiast, or a reluctant A-to-B commuter the lure of the convertible is a strong one. What better than wind in your hair, a panoramic view and the glorious aroma to shop for a used drop top of the English countryside in bloom. Well, that's the theory anyway.

booming sound in your ears and the whiff of smog in your nostrils. Never mind, the sexy, carefree image of bowling along in an open-top car is irresistible and it does not have to cost a fortune, or be a purely spring/summer pursuit. In fact, a good convertible can be as practical to use daily and as secure from the bleak mid-winter weather as a tin-top batchback. For about £5,000 it is possible to have the best of all motoring worlds, providing you choose the right used model carefully.

The past few years have been good for the convertible marketplace. Once £30,000 - used. Luckily there is an ai-

to soar in summer, but

James Ruppert shows how

In practice, a drop-top can mean upon a time convertibles were either stunned insects between your teeth a English or Italian, hroke down all the time and, while they were waiting to be hoods were leaky and the whole expe-

rience was dreadfully uncomfortable. Then in 1989 Mazda launched the MX5, aping the design of a small 1960s sports car, but mating it to Japanese build quality and levels of mechanical refinement. Not surprisingly, it was a huge hit and the concept has been followed by the MGF, BMW Z3, Mercedes SLK, Alfa Romeo Spider and Fiat Barchetta. Trouhle is they can cost between £15,000 and

ternative in the form of the cabrioleted

VW designers were always aware of the shortcomings of the traditional sports car and since the Beetle first had its roof lopped it was inevitable that they would prune the highly successful Golf. From 1979, the Golf cabriolet provided fourseater accommodation, utter reliability and one of the snuggest, leak-free and easiest to operate boods ever seen.

This concept was soon copied by othrepaired, rusted to dust. Worse still the er major manufacturers and the Ford Escort, Vauxhail Astra and Peugeot 205 followed in the early 1980s.

For those after a touch of luxury, older BMW 3 series were converted by Bauer in Germany and a well looked after example will he under £5,000. The

same goes for older Mercedes SLs. There are many things to bear in mind when huying a used convertible, especially at this time of the year. Obviously when the sun is out the prices go up and convertibles start to get snapped up,

but it is important not to be in too much of a hurry. What happens is that otherwise unsalable and unsavoury examples get sucked into the classified advertisements in clement weather. What looked pathetic, neglected and unattractive in Fehruary suddenly has a lot of promise

to the romantic eye in late May. Now it sounds obvious, but make sure that the hood is working, leak free and in good overall condidon. If a cabriolet had been stored with the hood down the material shrinks and then starts to crack under the stress of being erected again.

I went in search of some circa £5K convertibles. First of all I dropped by at the Great Trade Centre in White City, where there are hundreds of ex-company cars vertible bargain in the summer?

for sale. Their convertible selection was fairly eclectic from a 1973 Beetle at £4,999 which really was too old and obviously classic, up to a tired looking 1989 Escort 1.6 at £3,699.

I soon found a much tidier 1991 Escort Cahriolet privately advertised and it even had a fancy electronic hood, all for £4,995. The best find proved to be another privately advertised convertible, this time a Volkswagen Golf Clipper, registered in 1990, with a full service history, an electric hood and in immaculate condition with 80,000 miles on the clock. The owner was willing to negotiate a price on a sweltering day down from £5,800 to £5,250. Who says you can't pick up a con-



GAVIN GREEN

What should family cars offer? If you said they must be spacious, practical, versatile and as inexpensive as possible, you would be right. But not all manufacturers would agree: on the evidence of the cars they currently serve up, they obviously believe that family cars should be stylish sex symbols aimed at image-conscious trendies who don't give a fig for practical, rational values.

The daft car ads give us a clue to the car makers misguided priorities (Volvos that go faster than Ferraris, Mondeos that make your heart beat faster, naked supermodels). Even more revealing is the cars they serve up. Cars nowadays are designed to look sexy and stylish first, and hang many practical values. Interiors are cramped, even in supposed family cars, with rear seat

room being especially derisory. I remember pointing out as much to a Rover high-up some years ago (after Rover had reduced the rear seat room of the Metro) and he told me that people don't travel in back seats any more, so it didn't really matter. Rover's change, from the maker of the world's most space-efficient cars (in its Austin/Morris days) to a manufacturer of cars that supposedly put style before practicality (but still fail to be stylish) is perhaps the most extreme example.

My dad owned an Austin 1800 in the late 1960s. It was a supremely roomy and comfortable car, designed from the inside out. In other words, it was designed, first and foremost, with people in mind. Everything else was of secondary importance. Nowadays, cars are apparently designed from the outside in. Style sells, so the fact that back seats usually have insufficient headroom for tall men, or insufficient leg or knee room, or preposterously short cushions, or that back benchers often have to sit in heavily reclined chairs is deemed of secondary importance.

Today, there is no family saloon which offers outstanding rear room. None is anywhere near as space efficient as my dad's marvellous old Austin.

Ten years ago I owned a classic car I'd long wanted - a 1954 Citroen Light 15. sometimes known as the Traction Avant. It is one of the most beautiful and technically intriguing cars ever made (the reasons I wanted one), yet it was also supremely roomy and comfortable in the rear. It was comfortable because, as with my dad's old Austin, rear seat occupants sat upright in luxurious, large chairs, such as you would expect in a family lounge. I remember trying one of the then-new Ford Mondeos, towards the end of my stewardship of that fine old Citroen. I was amazed to find the rear of the Mondeo profoundly less comfortable, partly because of the much lower roof, necessitating a more reclined riding position. And yet the two cars were almost the same length, and covered much the same area of road occupation. Of course the Mondeo was faster, more refined, more fuel frugal and safer - all evidence of the huge strides made in recent car engineering. Yet comfort surely the primary role of any family car had been sacrificed in the interests of sporty styling and "emotional" appeal.

The irony is that truly great cars offer both function and form - the latter flowing from the former. The Mini was never really styled. It looked the way it did because that was the most practical way to clothe a small car that was designed to seat four, and yet he as small as possible. It was a great design, not a pretentious style statement. The same could be said of my old Citroen, of the 2CV. of the first Range Rover, of the Fiat Tipo and of a variety of old Renaults. Car makers would do well to learn from them.

The safest car ever made?



Volvo's new big car, the SBO, has just gone on sale in the UK. Big on safety, and also technically interesting, the new \$80 boasts new-style seats that avoid whiplash injury, has improved side protection, and also features an "inflatable currain" airbag concealed inside the headlining between the from and rear side pillars, it inflates on impact and cushions the head and neck in side impacts. Volvo claims the S80 is the safest Volvo ever and, by implication, is probably the

talest car ever made.

The new big car uses a transversely mounted straight-six engine, unlike all other cars on the road. Unlike previous big Volvos, such as the 740 and 940, it is also from-wheel drive. There will also be no estate version - amazing considering the dominance of old big Volvos in the estate market.

Two models are offered initially - a 2.9-litre, costing C27.630, and a sportier T6, which has 272bhp thanks to a twin-turbo engine, and costs £36,230. Bigger selling fivecylinder models go on sale within 12 months.

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Super-Lego meets mail-order

In Japan you can flip through a virtual catalogue, choose the components of your dream home and sit back and wait for the factory to deliver it. Welcome to the future, says Andrew Mylius

House hunting - foot-slogging, surveying, bidding, gazumping - can be an experience full of angst and heartache. But it doesn't have to be that way. With the aid of computer modelling, would-be home owners in Japan custom-select their oew abode from

Having tried different configurations on for comfort "virtually", their final choice is relayed to factories where modular parts are made. The modules are theo delivered as separate components and fixed together on site. From visiting the estate agent to moving in takes about 16 weeks.

This system of home huilding - super-Lego meets mail-order clothes shopping - has been normal in Japan for more than a decade. Chris McCarthy, a partner at the engineers Battle McCarthy, says: "At an international level housing is exportable. You can make things in one country and build them in another. As far as the Japanese are concerned, that can be thousands of miles away, so long as the product is high value."

The transglobal migration of brown and white goods proves his point. Meanwhile, at the product design group DCAb, the managing director, Tom Barker, thinks the constructioo industry will soon be competing world-wide for contracts in the housing market. As a result, after killing off prefabricatioo and system architecture in the late 1960s and 1970s, UK constructors are starting to sit up and look afresh at factory-made houses.

Groups investigating new bouse-buildlog techniques such as Taylor Woodrow, Countryside Properties and Berkeley Homes believe the market will be moved equally by "supply-side" push and "demand-side" pull. Both manufacturer aod consumer stand to beoefit from an

While Alan Cherry, chairman of Countryside Properties, believes the Brits have a love affair with bricks, Nick Thompson,



Mass housing systems in Korea, a model designed by the Richard Rogers Partnership with Tom Barker

sociates, is critical of housing that consists of smaller and smaller brick boxes: "It's selling yesterday's technology to a captive flexible space and high performance to a geoeration of home-buyers raised as consumers and used to exercising choice.

Allan Kell, executive manager of the European Iotelligeot Building Group, is currently working on an experimental house type for mass-production - the Integer project. "People jump to conclusions about how a house of the future looks," he says. "They imagine a sci-fi pod oo a stick." Concept houses, though, are seldom more than oneoffs. As a result, Integer is deliberately steering clear of prescribing any aesthetic. The

an architect partner at Cole Thompson As- focus is instead on the way the building same "lean production" principles - short Barker ootes that in Japan factory-made works. If local materials perform, incorporate them, is its attitude. The aim is to automation - that have helped it to domdeliver a high-volume product that is at least market." Today's technology offers open, a third cheaper than conventional housing at erection stage, is more efficient to run and lasts longer as well.

You could ask: 'What is great architecture?" says Bernard Hunt, managing partner at Hunt Thompson. "That can be a distraction. There's a confusioo between art and architecture. Really successful architecture is where people achieve a better quality of life. Many things in architecture haven't caught up with computers and cars for instance."

Toyota is one of Japan's largest hous-

inance in the motor industry. It is instructive to oote that John Egan, ex-chief of Jaguar and current head of the British Airports Authority, will report to the Government oo efficiency in the UK construction industry later this year. Mr Kell notes: "Frankly, the British construction site isn't renowned for its efficiency." Richard Hodkinson at Taylor Woodrow agrees: "Working in a factory is far more efficient than working in the rain."

Factories, simply, allow for better coo-

lead-times, flexible specialisation, and task housing caters to the top end of the market. "They sell at a premium because they're 'manufactured'. What they sell on is the fact that the factory gives you special qualities," he says.

Time and mooey drive the streamlining of house construction, Factories not only deliver houses regardless of weather; they are safer to work in and, explains Mr Hodkinsoo: "If you cut down the oumber of components on site you cut down waste. If you bring a high-quality part to a site you need to protect that item and commission it separately. Factory production could help troi of the production process. They are con- you to incorporate high-quality doors and ing manufacturers, applying to buildings the improved value for the consumer. Mr dramatically cut the 70 million tonnes of innovation is the process."

London Property

PROPERTY: RESIDENTIAL

00-site waste geocrated by demolition and the construction process itself will be received enthusiastically by builders. Chris McCarthy predicts landfill will soon be charged at £15-20 per tonne. "Don't demolish, adapt," he advises. Difficult to achieve with buildings piled brick upoo brick, but almost DFY with a house that clips together.

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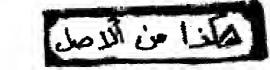
Centralising production also allows for prototyping and testing in a way that is standard to product design but unheard of m domestic architecture. Mr McCarthy likes locating faults: "The process of finding a problem is good. Everything has problems: it'a a case of understanding it and designing it out." The customer has an environment to live in that works as well as the car he or she drives.

And, like the car, it should be serviced regularly and come with a full owner's manual. "Housing will need to become more functional, adaptable and maintainable," says Mr McCarthy. Modularity - the ability to grow or shrink the space you live in - offers the prospect of a "house for life". Meanwhile, the increasing importance of surveys in the house-buying process shows that people want more information about the service history of a house. "That is of worth to somebody who takes the house off

Going modular and creating homes as mass products doesn't mean all houses will look the same. The ability to tailor a building to suit its occupant means variety, oot uniformity. Moreover, there are different ways of delivering modularity. Research is still in early stages in this country and it looks as if flat-pack, frame-and-panel and volumetric interpretations will develop in parallel. And factory-produced, cataloguehought houses will oot be full of alien technology or even, occessarily, conspicuously modern. Richard Hodkinsoo says: "We're venient for the constructor and represent windows." Meanwhile the opportunity to not involved in rocket science here. The







Source: NRS (Jan '97- June '97)

Ever tried conversion therapy?

Fiona Brandhorst on the perils and pluses of turning a garage or loft into a space fit for your gran to live in

Terry Akif was ptcased as punch when she bought a small chalet-style house in a desirable corner of suburban Kent in February. Not only was it "frozen in the 1930s" with all its original features, but the garage was perfect for the major plans Terry had in mind. Her mother is disabled and she wanted to provide her with a ground-floor "granny annexe".

The garage seemed ideal to convert to a self-contained flat with its own entrance. "It had to have its own door," said Terry, "or the arrangement would never work." A small passageway between the house and the garage was to be enclosed and become the new front door and hallway.

Plans were drawn up and taken to the council planners to see if the proposals were viable. Terry was totally unprepared for the outcome. "We were told that it was against planning regulations for one property to have two front doors, "I was gutted," said Terry, "and so was my

"My husband is a painter and decorator and was already having to give up the garage as his storage place. He'd have to negotiate me, the children and my mother as he traipsed through the house with his tools every across a 1947 semi with an inmorning." However, Terry's



The only way is up: Terry Akif converted her loft after planners forced her to drop plans for her garage

traditional loft extension.

Janine Maclachlan was looking for a family house a few years ago with an extra room at ground level to accommodate her elderly mother-in-law who had emphysema. She came tegral garage converted into a mother is staying put and the large room - an unusual find in

smidgin smaller than we'd hoped for, but the extra room overlooked a village-type green her mother-in-law, Janine has Kent, has clients on his books with a park beyond."

of any features and was 20ft long means we can get the computpositioning furniture. Janine when guests stay they can pot- ant market attracts a good repainted the dark red walls ter around without disturbing the price," he says.

Akifs have reverted to a more a very Victorian part of south white and added a small en suite household and vice versa. It's an London. "The house was a bathroom at the rear for her

> changed the use of the room to The room itself was devoid a study and guest room, "It

alternative to a loft conversion."

Peter Wood, sales director at However, since the death of Acorn estate agents in Bromley, specifically looking for properties spacious enough to house grannies, au pairs and nannies. by 9ft wide, making it tricky for er out of the living room, and "An extended home in a buoyPhotograph: Glynn Griffiths

It's not only executive-style homes that are popular: "People are settling for terraced properties converted to make four or five bedrooms that they previously wouldn't have gone for, because they can't afford properties in the next price bracket."

the work. Buyers are looking for couldn't accommodate an extra an easy option. If the conversion is of a good standard, they'd prefer to pay a little bit extra to buy carried out rather than suffer at least £30,000 to move to a weeks of building disruption themselves.

Mr Wood underlines the attraction of a truly self-contained annexe, with its own front door, or a property that lends itself to sectioning off. Acorn is currently selling a sixhedroom house in Queen's Road, Beckenham, Kent, for £285,000. "It could easily be annexed to create a separate flat," says Mr Wood.

Jill Bennett spent more than £30,000 on a loft conversion to provide a "hotel suite" for the live-in namy who looks after her four children. "We already have five bedrooms but it wasn't fair to expect anyone to start sharing." As they had considerable equity in the west London house they didn't want to skimp on the plans. "The work went on for months longer than the builder said it would," says Jill. "He'd disappear for a couple of days each week once the main construction work was done, hut we're really pleased

with the results." When Steve Cohen decided to increase his working hours as a social work manager, he needed to employ an au pair to take over the school run as well as the housework that he shares ing a suitable au pair." In a sought-after area, a loft with his wife, Tracy, a primary

ue over and above the cost of three-bedroom house, in Essex, person comfortably. "We looked at moving, but we like the location and our garden," says Steve. "We'd have to spend four-bed house with the same advantages." Expanding into their loft to make a large bedroom and shower room seemed

a good compromise. The Cohens were given quotes ranging from £14,500 to £19,000 from national and local companies selected from the Yellow Pages. "They all came up with similar drawings," says Steve, "but were variable on the information they could give me. Some companies men-tioned fire regulations while

others didn't." After several weeks of sitting through the sales patter. Steve and Tracy felt they could only trust one of the companies to do the job. But, like all good craftsmen, he was busy with other work until December, and the Cohens needed their bedroom by the end of the summer, so frustratingly they had to start looking for another

We've found someone else who can start the work shortly," says Steve, "and I've had the money through from the building society. With any luck we'll be enjoying the view from our dormer in a few months' time. Now it's just a question of find-

extension can enhance the val-school teacher. However, their .4com is on 0181-663 3322.



Colin McBride wanted a conservatory on the roofhe fought for six months to get consent Photograph:

Raising the roof about bad loft extensions

Doing it on the cheap can be a headache, costing thousands to put right, Rol Dert Liebman discovers

in summer, too cold the other 10 mont. its, badly converted lofts represent et aremely poor value for mon-ey sot letimes costing twice the original e timate to get right.

If a lot has been built badly or without proper planning permission, the owner may need to spend the same amount of thoney as it cost to build," says Monis McGruer, business manager for national loft builders Econoloft.

Tve seen dormer windows installed which could blow down in high winds. and some lofts are simply too dangerous to use." Mr McGruer has also met loft owners who have showers that they can't use. "The builders installed the shower under the sloping roof where the user can't actually stand up."

Some people minimise various risks Perkins and Anthony Susman were married, their home suddenly had to contend with frequent visits from Dr

three teenagers. They installed a WC in their guest room, using a two-door arrangement which allows en suite access from the months later, they decided to convert ly easily and cheaply. Others don't.

uary, and six months later their home contraption which is best described by has seen no tool noisier or nastier than a tape measure.

They consulted the Yellow Pages and interviewed several firms: "We selected Econoloft because of their price, and partly the way the other companies presented themselves. One changed tack midstream about the construction method, and another was more concerned with slagging off other firms," says Dr Perkins, senior lecturer at Kingston University.

"About 10 days later, two men from Econoloft came to take measurements," explains Mr Susman, a solicitor. But instead of receiving plans, they received another visit from an Econoloft man about five weeks later. "He measured and remeasured the stairs, exchanging information on his mobile phone with Econoloft for about

a half-bour." They then received the full plans, wrote to Econoloft to resolve a few points, and now confront their next hurdle, which involves the neighbours on either side of their mid-terraced house: We are sending the plans to each of them. We have to get their approval un- be extremely serious and may not show from the outset. After Mary Anne der a new law. It stops people doing up until months or years later. You also work which may damage the neighbour's property," says Mr Susman.

If they knew they were going to con-Perkins's adult child and Mr Susman's vert the loft, would they have installed ger." the loo in the guest room? "A lavatory in our loft would have been very expensive and very hard to get right," says Dr Perkins. Some houses have plumbroom itself or from the hall. Many ing which can be extended upwards fair-

For some lofts, says Mr McGruer, They made initial inquiries in Jan- the only feasible WC is a macerator, a

what it is not it is not a flush toilet. And generally it is not as good or as nice or as reliable as a flush toilet.

When the builders arrive in earnest, Mr Susman expects his toft to be converted in a fraction of time that the paperwork is taking - a matter of weeks,

This slow, cautious, clever approach to toft conversion is strongly endorsed by Julian Owen, an architect: "I recommend a consulting structural engineer. Any roof structure has to be treated with great respect. The forces involved are comparatively quite targe. Roofs have a tendency to spreading, to push ont. The big problem is getting enough space through the ceiling ties to put the stairs in."

Plenty of builders will sidestep building regulations and professional consultations, but this can be a false economy, says Mr Owen, a director of ASBA, Associated Self Build Architects. "If you don't involve outside professionals it will be expensive because of low quality. Besides, the planners may learn about it anyway. Roof spread can run the risk of leaks, of poor insulation leading to condensation, of poor ventilation leading to rot, and even fire dan-

Colin McBride hired a consulting engineer when he converted his loft as part of a larger refurbishment.

Mr McBride purchased the dilapidated downstairs flat in a two-flat Edwardian bouse in Sydenham, near Crystal Palace, in 1987. "I intended to renovate it and sell it on after about a year, but the upstairs flat became availabte and I bought that one as well." He now owned the freehold, and he decided to convert the property into five

"I have no architectural training, but it was relatively easy to do a site survey of the existing rooms and design around that. I hired a structural engineer to make sure that my alterations were structurally feasible," says Mr McBride. Among other things, the building's foundations needed to be reinforced so that they could take the extra weight of an additional storey supported by steel.

The engineer used my footprint sketches for his drawings which we sent to the local council," he says. It was not all smooth sailing. Mr McBride's plans called for a greenhouse at the very top: "I had problems getting permission to put the conservatory on the roof. A few years ago, roof terraces were unusual. Today it's the norm. I fought for six months to get consent, but it was worth it. And they sent the district surveyor around periodically to check on

The glorious roof-terrace apartment is his own. "It has two double bedrooms and an L-shaped living room which opens onto the conservatory, which opens onto a 20 by 10-foot garden. It's my private baven."

Havens are where you find, or make, them. "I wouldn't mind doing no . another property, so I will sell this one for the right price," says Mr McBride.

ASBA can be contacted on 01924 873873 and Econoloft on 0800

Why le football is not the only reason France is in demand

A strong pound means property across The Channel has become affordable again, reports Ginetta **Vedrickas**

We're going to be hearing a lot about France this summer and not just about Le Football. For all the grotesque renophobia we saw over ticket allocation, it still has to be said: the pound is through properties on the Inthree up at half time; while the franc is down to 10 men. Translated into property terms, it together the cash, buy a charmmeans the British are snapping ing fermette, live on snails and up French homes with a

Penny Zoldan, owner of Latitudes agency, which deals exclusively in French property. thinks the World Cup may cause a "blip" in sales: "Many people have said that they're too frightened to visit over that period and would rather wait until the end of July." Penny appears unworried about the temporary lack of sales as ber office is the busiest it's been in the 10 years since opening. Why are people keen to buy now? "It's a combination. The pound is strong against the franc and people are feeling confident at last. Prices are still low as France hasn't fully emerged from its recession,"

The pound may be strong but why should this have negative effects on vendors? Luke Margrett has been trying to sell bis Normandy farmhouse, bought nine years ago, since last April. "The strong pound brings out timewasters," says Luke. "With seven francs to the pound buyers were genuine but now I'm being pestered by all sorts of people who I can't believe are serious." Luke recounts incidences of people whose journey to Normandy would severely limit their opportunities to visit the farmhouse including a man from Dorset

whose wife won't travel by boat. Luke is selling his partly-renovated house because restoration funds have evaporated and, despite many happy holidays there, he cannot often visday hacking down the grass before you can relax." Luke finds French agents problematic: "The local agents are quite Mafia-like and won't even visit the house if the track is muddy." So far no-one has been prepared to value his house and Luke has received most interest from the Internet where he hopes to sell rather than pay £1.5000-£2,000 to agents.

France is inextricably linked with romance, conjuring up images of wine, leisurely gastronomic pursuits and rolling countryside. Peter Mayle has a lot to answer for. Flicking ternet inspired a few idle daydreams. Perhaps I could scrape earn une croute'?

The fantasy was cruelly shattered by Liz Oliver, managing director of Francophiles. "You get the real dreamers at the lower end of the market. Don't expect to find a house for under £20,000 that you can move straight into." warns Liz: "You might find somewhere in the middle of nowhere but it will be terribly, terribly, terribly rural and do you really want live in the middle of nowhere?"

Headmaster David Newton is not a dreamer. Together he and Swiss wife Ursi bought their house through Francophiles after firstly undertaking rigorous homework. "We thought about it for years and came to the conclusion that we either did it or never mentioned it again." says David. Afler eliminating various areas, the north because of its weather and the south because of its distance, they spent a week viewing sixteen properties which they narrowed down to three.

The Newtons finally bought a renovated, Charentaise farmhouse for £57,000. The area is popular with tourists and they rent out the nineteenth century bouse producing a 20% return on their investment. This is not always the case. "For rental properties a pool is essential. Our phone rings nonstop but friends without a pool have struggled," says David who went on to huy the harn next door for £7,500. Having spent £40,000 on restoration, they are about to spend their first holiday there and are con-

it which adds to the work when sidering a third property in an hospitable people. "I asked if they resent us British buying up their bouses and they said they were pleased as otherwise they would lie in ruins. Apparently we're preferable to Germans

and Parisians," laughs David. All buyers I spoke to had complimentary stories about French builders with some going beyond the call of duty. Peter Haynes is 70 and feels it's time to sell his Normandy house but he has fond memories of French craftsmen. The local mayor of the next town organised builders for Peter who specified a traditional restoration: "I assumed they would use soft wood hut was surprised to find oak doors and window frames."

Dick Schrader, publisher of French Property News, sees a stark difference between today's climate and the Eighties: "Money was burning holes in pockets and there was a lot of froth on the market." Many buyers undoubtedly came unstuck when they bought beautiful properties needing refurbishment but with a naive view of

the potential cost. Builder Bob Thompson bought a shell of a bouse in the Loire nine years ago but has never spent a night in his French home: "I was kidding myself that I'd do the work hut now I realise I'm never going to have the time or the money," says Bob under the disapproving eye of wife Liz.

Today there's a proliferation of information in the form of books, exhibitions and websites. Many British agents have strong links and expertise in the French property market so there are no excuses. Dick Schrader says it comes down to one word: "realism". "You hope that people have taken advice. covered the area and conclud-

ed that it's right for them." Do your research and narrow your chosen region to avoid driving huge distances each time you view.

Go through a British agent who is registered in France as it costs no more.

Check exactly what you are buying as there is no standard

Don't pay money to anyone except the notaire, the French lawver who acts on your trans-

Homework for home work

Working at home can be a real pain if you aren't sitting comfortably. Rosalind Russell looks at the latest in office furniture

Making the decision to leave the prevention is infinitely prefersecurity of an office to go freeance is a heady experience. No more commuting, no office polities. And there's the anticipation of setting against tax the cost of heating and lighting the room you'll use at home as an office, your computer system, the telephooe bill and desk. However, the cost of fitting out an office can be an expensive initial outlay.

Deciding on the hudget, however, depends oo your commitment to home working. It's oot much of a hardship to manage with cheap and cheerful if you're only going to use it an hour or two a day.

Sitting oo a dining chair for six hours a day, however, would persuade even the thriftiest to curved sections creating a invest in a property designed office chair. You can pay anything from £160 for a desk cluding a jazzy black-and-white from Debenhams Office range up to £1,755 for the Backsaver £551. Ultimate Office Chair from

The Backsaver allows for several positions, including a supportive opright position for will advise on the best range for desk work, semi-reclined for you depending on the amount reading or talking on the phone of time you'll be spending at and fully reclined for dreaming your desk. up how you're going to get this one past the Inland Revenue, It has an automatically retracting foot rest and adjustable seat height and head rest.

Back2 was launched by Guy Cinnamon, whose first ergonomic furniture products were anatomically correct pillows sold in the shop Anatomia. His a fixed position. Filing cabinets new London showroom stocks more than 40 designs of office

"Many people just don't know how to sit properly," says Cinnamon, "which is a sure way of getting back pain. Even if you don't suffer from discomfort yet.

ably to cure."

The latest in the Back2 range is the Hag Saddle Chair, which may look strangely familiar to horse riders and just strange to anyone else. But it has been carefully designed to allow the hips to stretch and relax while the knees rest below the hips, with the feet flat on the floor - just as you would sit in a saddle in fact and quite easy to get used to, as it's oot attached to an unpredictable animal that can bolt at the sight

of an old paper bag. The Hag Saddle has an unusually shaped adjustable back rest and can be rocked into a reclining position. Relaxing back, the elbows can be rested on the stretch across the shoulders. It comes in a choice of fabrics, inzebra design, and costs from

If that seems a bit pricey, the chain Office World offers a vast range of office furniture to suit most home workers. They

For a couple of hours a day, the high-back operator's chair at £69.99 would probably be suitable; but for four hours or more, an executive operator's chair at £199.99 would offer more support. It is fully synchronised with a gas lift, and the back can be free floating or io start at £99.99 for the basic economy to £129 for a model that gives 100 per cent extension. For coloured cabinets, in blue, red or brown and cream.

the cost is £140. "If someone is sitting at their desk full time," says Office



World's Peter Mason, "we might recommend an American manufacturer's range called O'Sullivan. It is made specifically for the home office market. A multi-media cart with room for CD storage, printer, tower unit, pullout keyboard and slanted copy shelf costs £99.99. The next system up, with filing drawers costs £199.99."

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World, includes a folding-door computer uoit at £199.99. But the one that might appeal to anyone who finds self-assembly as easy-peasy as advanced enpool-based Dams system.

gineering would be the Liver-Office World's price includes delivery and assembly. The sys-

A stylish French range from tem has adjustable feet height Gautier, also stocked by Office to allow for uneven floors and can be delivered and set up in 10 days. There is free delivery on all other orders over £35 and you can order from the cata-

> Debenhams 0171-408 4444; Back2 0800 374 604; Office World 0800 5000 24.

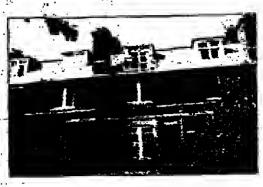
THREE TO VI

Braeside ... 2 large detached house at Baldrine, on the Isle of Man, has an 11ft by 8ft study, making it possible to keep all the office clutter away from the rest of the four bedroom house.



bished, with a new kitchestand bathrooms, the white-painted house stands in secluded gardens with slews across Laxey Bay and the hills beyond. It has a large entrance had and reception room with open fireplace and folding doors leading to the dining room. Two of the bathrooms are entrance by the standard of the pathrooms are entranced and the standard of the stand suite and there is an integral 22ft garage. £335,000 through Chrystals (01624 623480).

Number · Coastguard Cottages, at Toot Rock, East Sussex, is a midterrace former coastguard's cottage with wide views across coast and countryside. They could, admittedly, be distracting for



anyone toiling away in the first-floor study, which has polished pine floors and twin sash windows. Halfway between Rye and Hastings, the village has a local pub and sailing club as further excuses not to work. With hand-built kitchen, two bedrooms and 22ft sitting room, it's for sale through Phillips & Stobbs for £125,000. A further £10,000 will buy a detached workshop/studio. (01797 227338).

Yew Tree Cottage high in the Slad Valley in Gloucestershire is a three-storey house with open fireplaces, exposed beams, latched doors and wood strip floors. It also has a study with exposed Cotswold stone



shelves and a door to the garden. Well known through the writings of Lauric Lee in Cider With Rosie, the area is three miles from Stroud. with an Inter-City service to Paddington that takes an hour and a hulf. The cottage has five bedrooms, two bathrooms and a terraced garden with vine-shaded pergola, roses, jasmine and honeysuckle, £245,0481 through Hamptons (01452 812254).

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